

TEXAS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

*Resolution Honoring
State Representative James Talarico*

- WHEREAS,* Texas libraries have faced unprecedented censorship over the past two years; and
- WHEREAS,* According to PEN America, Texas leads the country in book bans with 438 instances of book bans by school districts between July and December 2022; and
- WHEREAS,* During the 88th Legislative Session nearly 40 bills were filed seeking to regulate content in school libraries, criminalize librarians for providing educational resources, and prohibit certain programming in public libraries; and
- WHEREAS,* Representative James Talarico championed the freedom to read and challenged efforts to impose state control over information and resources provided by libraries to millions of Texas school children; and
- WHEREAS,* Representative Talarico, a former public school teacher and member of the House Committee on Public Education, sponsored House Resolution 806 Commemorating Library Day in the State of Texas, which was passed by the House on March 28; and
- WHEREAS,* Representative Talarico was a vocal advocate for libraries throughout the legislative session, offering compelling arguments against legislation specifically targeting school libraries and their ability to serve all students; now, therefore, be it
- RESOLVED,* That the Texas Library Association, on behalf of its 5,000 members, hereby expresses sincere thanks and appreciation to Representative James Talarico for his leadership and unwavering support of Texas libraries and the freedom to read.

Shirley Robinson, CAE
TLA Executive Director



Approved and submitted by
TLA Legislative Committee
June 27, 2023

Adopted by TLA Council
July 14, 2023