

By: Creighton

S.R. No. 174

SENATE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Longhorns and Aggies are uniting at the State Capitol on February 15, 2023, to celebrate The University of Texas at Austin and Texas A&M University with Orange and Maroon Legislative Day, a day when the state's two largest universities celebrate their work to promote higher education in the State of Texas; and

WHEREAS, Alumni from the two institutions total more than 1.15 million, and The University of Texas at Austin and Texas A&M University had a combined enrollment of more than 127,000 students in the fall of 2022, with more than 33,000 students receiving degrees in 2022; the schools include superb museums and libraries, including the George H. W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum and the Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library and Museum, and both universities are renowned for their exceptional research, grants and productivity, with combined annual research expenditures of over \$1.93 billion; and

WHEREAS, The teaching and research missions of The University of Texas at Austin and Texas A&M University benefit the State of Texas through the cultivation of informed and engaged citizens, and they drive economic prosperity through technological innovation, entrepreneurial spirit, improved health care, and scientific breakthroughs, including the development of a new clot-busting medication at The University of

Texas at Austin that can reduce by half the risk of brain bleeding in stroke patients as well as the discovery of new biological technologies at Texas A&M University to fight pathogens that infect Texas crops and cost the United States agricultural industry billions of dollars each year; and

WHEREAS, Researchers from The University of Texas at Austin and Texas A&M University explore, discover, and innovate in the sciences, arts, and humanities and have been granted numerous patents; as tier one research institutions, both universities provide students with valuable opportunities for applied learning with guidance from outstanding faculty across the disciplines, and as Hispanic-serving institutions, both universities broaden access to higher education for historically underserved populations; and

WHEREAS, Both universities serve as important cultural centers, engaging Texans in the visual and performing arts and other creative endeavors, and they promote athletics and physical education, inspiring Texans to stay active and to support student-athletes; and

WHEREAS, The combined faculties feature five Nobel laureates and more than 100 National Academy members, and among the enrolled students are National Merit scholars, Rhodes scholars, Olympic gold medalists, military service veterans, and many of the Lone Star State's most outstanding students; in addition, the two universities offer more than 500 graduate degree programs and an extraordinary range of postgraduate opportunities; and

WHEREAS, The two institutions have proven records of support for our nation's military and have commissioned tens of thousands of uniformed officers throughout their storied histories; both schools enroll hundreds of veterans each semester and are committed to offering new opportunities to our nation's bravest and to providing supportive, military-friendly environments; and

WHEREAS, The University of Texas at Austin and Texas A&M University have positioned themselves as preeminent institutions of higher education on the state, national, and international levels, and Texans are fortunate to have access to these two excellent state university systems; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 88th Legislature, hereby recognize February 15, 2023, as Orange and Maroon Legislative Day and commend students and alumni from The University of Texas at Austin and Texas A&M University for their commitment to supporting higher education in the Lone Star State; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared in honor of this special occasion.