

By: McCall

H.R. No. 240

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, February 17-21, 2003, is being celebrated as Texas  
2 Technology and Life-Sciences Week in order to increase public  
3 awareness of the extraordinary achievements of these industries and  
4 the vital role they play in the prosperity of the Lone Star State;  
5 and

6           WHEREAS, Sponsoring Texas Technology and Life-Sciences Week  
7 are the AeA Texas Council, the Texas Healthcare and Bioscience  
8 Institute, the Metroplex Technology Business Council, and TechNet  
9 Texas; and

10           WHEREAS, The technology and life-sciences industries and  
11 research institutions of Texas are achieving leading-edge advances  
12 in medicine, space exploration, computing, communications, energy,  
13 and transportation, revolutionizing the world we live in; within  
14 the state, these industries employ more Texans than do the oil,  
15 natural gas, and agriculture industries combined, and their  
16 high-wage, highly skilled jobs contribute to a diverse and growing  
17 economy; and

18           WHEREAS, People around the globe have benefitted  
19 immeasurably from the medical treatments and devices developed by  
20 Texas companies, and the Texas Healthcare and Bioscience Institute,  
21 whose membership includes universities, private research  
22 institutions, and biotechnology, medical device, and  
23 pharmaceutical companies, estimates that nearly 400 new products  
24 are currently under development in the state; and

1           WHEREAS, The life-sciences industry constitutes a  
2 significant pillar of the Texas economy; in 1997 alone,  
3 life-science companies and institutions produced more than \$11  
4 billion of the gross state product, and the industry employs some  
5 50,000 Texans, with the promise of continued job growth for many  
6 years to come; and

7           WHEREAS, AeA, the nation's largest high-tech trade group,  
8 reports that Texas ranks second in the country in high-tech  
9 employment, with some 460,000 jobs; moreover, the state enjoys a  
10 high-tech payroll of \$31.6 billion, which places it 10th among all  
11 the states in terms of its high-tech average wage; the importance of  
12 this industry to Texans is further underscored by the fact that the  
13 number of high-tech jobs increased 47 percent between 1995 and  
14 2001, and by the finding that high-tech products account for 30  
15 percent of the state's international exports; and

16           WHEREAS, All sectors of the high-technology and  
17 life-sciences community are joining together this week to discuss  
18 the major issues facing their industries and to affirm their  
19 support for a strong system of public and higher education, a  
20 critical factor in providing the highly skilled workforce on which  
21 these industries depend; and

22           WHEREAS, The technology and life-sciences industries have  
23 become a tremendous engine of economic growth in the State of Texas,  
24 and the benefits of their research and production enrich people the  
25 world over; now, therefore, be it

26           RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas  
27 Legislature hereby recognize February 17-21, 2003, as Texas

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1 Technology and Life-Sciences Week and commend its sponsors for  
2 their outstanding efforts in promoting research, development, and  
3 manufacturing in the State of Texas.