

By: Coleman

H.R. No. 586

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The University of Houston (UH) College of Optometry
2 has enhanced the well-being of countless Texans since it was
3 established half a century ago; and

4 WHEREAS, Founded in cooperation with the Texas Optometric
5 Association in 1952, it is the only college of optometry in Texas
6 and the Southwest and one of just 17 in the United States; its
7 graduate program in vision science is among the most highly
8 regarded in the country and boasts more than 3,100 alumni, who today
9 practice in 49 states and 24 foreign countries; and

10 WHEREAS, Led by Dean Jerald W. Strickland, the college is
11 staffed by 67 professors and 507 adjunct members; included in this
12 outstanding faculty are optometrists, vision, optical, and
13 biomedical scientists, physicians, and public health specialists;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, The UH College of Optometry is home to two noted
16 research facilities: the Visual Optics Institute, the only center
17 in the world devoted to the study of visual optics, and the Texas
18 Eye Research Technology Center, dedicated to developing new
19 ophthalmic technologies and procedures; each year, the college's
20 faculty receives more than \$3 million in grants and contracts to
21 advance the understanding of vision and the ability to improve
22 defective sight; and

23 WHEREAS, In addition to its degree programs and its research
24 and development mission, the college also affords treatment to

1 Houston-area residents through its on-campus University Eye
2 Institute and through clinics that it operates within various
3 community health centers around the city; annually, some 45,000
4 patients receive care at these sites, including thousands of
5 preschool and school-age children; and

6 WHEREAS, For the past 12 years, the college has supported the
7 Texas Optometry Careers Opportunities Program, a nationally
8 recognized model for recruiting and retaining minorities and
9 educationally disadvantaged students for the health professions;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Throughout its admirable history, the University of
12 Houston College of Optometry has improved the quality of life for
13 myriad residents of the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
15 Legislature hereby commemorate the 50th anniversary of the founding
16 of the University of Houston College of Optometry and extend best
17 wishes to its administrators, faculty, staff, students, and alumni
18 for continued success.