

By: Branch

H.C.R. No. 133

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Medical schools and teaching hospitals in Texas play
2 a vital role in furnishing the trained physicians that this state
3 needs in order to provide quality health care for all its citizens;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Texas currently has eight medical schools and four
6 regional academic health centers, facilities that offer clinical
7 training to third- and fourth-year medical students; today, these
8 12 institutions are collectively educating more than 5,000 men and
9 women; and

10 WHEREAS, In addition, Texas boasts 468 accredited residency
11 programs, which prepare physicians to practice in a specific
12 medical specialty; nearly 6,000 recently graduated physicians
13 currently work as residents in this state; and

14 WHEREAS, Through the formula funding process now in place,
15 Texas spends approximately \$50,000 a year for each medical student,
16 investing, on average, \$200,000 per student over the entire four
17 years of medical school; the state also spends about \$3,000
18 annually for each resident; residency programs vary in length
19 according to specialty: pediatricians, for example, undertake a
20 three-year residency, and pediatric cardiologists train for three
21 more years after that; and

22 WHEREAS, The return on the state's investment in medical
23 education is enormous; to take just one economic index, Texas
24 ranked fifth in the nation in 2002 in the economic impact produced

1 by its medical schools and teaching hospitals; that year alone,
2 those institutions had a direct impact on the state of \$8.5 billion
3 and an indirect effect of \$11.1 billion; and

4 WHEREAS, From the standpoint of patient care, residency
5 programs contribute immeasurably to the Texas health care system;
6 residents provide medical services to countless patients,
7 especially Medicaid, Medicare, and indigent patients, and
8 typically tag-team to provide round-the-clock coverage at teaching
9 hospitals, which generally deal with the most difficult medical
10 cases; and

11 WHEREAS, Research has shown a strong relationship between
12 where physicians train and where they choose to enter practice;
13 about 57 percent of those who graduate from medical school in Texas
14 remain in the state for their residency training, and studies
15 indicate that physicians who complete both their undergraduate and
16 graduate medical education in Texas are almost three times more
17 likely to practice in this state than those trained elsewhere; and

18 WHEREAS, For Texas to continue to be a strong and productive
19 state, access to quality health care must be assured; at the same
20 time, ongoing innovations in medical technology and the increasing
21 complexity of medical treatment, together with longer average life
22 spans and the state's growing population, all mean that the demand
23 for physicians in a wide array of fields will only expand in the
24 years ahead; now, therefore, be it

25 RESOLVED, That the 79th Legislature of the State of Texas
26 hereby recognize the essential importance of skilled medical care
27 to the well-being of Texas citizens and the concomitant need to

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1 adequately provide for the education of medical students and
2 residents in the Lone Star State.