

By: Alonzo

H.R. No. 1190

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The face of Texas is rapidly changing, and  
2 demographic trends indicate that Hispanics will likely make up a  
3 majority of the population within the next decade; as a result, the  
4 state is in great need of more certified bilingual teachers, and a  
5 program at the University of North Texas is wisely addressing that  
6 need; and

7           WHEREAS, In collaboration with the Texas Higher Education  
8 Coordinating Board, UNT is offering the Roberto R. Alonzo  
9 Bilingual/ESL Education Scholars Program to provide tuition  
10 assistance and loan forgiveness as incentives for students to  
11 pursue certification programs in bilingual or ESL education;  
12 covering tuition, fees, and a small book allowance, the  
13 scholarships are available for up to 25 students and provide a total  
14 of \$300,000 in funding to junior and senior education students at  
15 UNT; and

16           WHEREAS, Students enrolled in this program must maintain at  
17 least a 2.75 grade point average, meet financial aid requirements,  
18 dedicate the majority of their classes to early childhood to  
19 fourth-grade level bilingual or ESL courses, as well as agree to  
20 teach full-time as a certified teacher in early childhood through  
21 fourth-grade bilingual or ESL classes at a public school in Texas  
22 for five years; and

23           WHEREAS, Equipping future teachers with fluency in the  
24 Spanish language that will facilitate the delivery of content in

1 the classroom as well as encouraging respect and appreciation of  
2 linguistic and cultural differences are important priorities of the  
3 UNT program, and student participants may not only take pride in the  
4 fact that they will be in high demand on graduation but also that  
5 they are providing a service that is vital to the future of our  
6 state by attending to the needs of the growing population of  
7 Spanish-speaking schoolchildren; now, therefore, be it

8         RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas  
9 Legislature hereby welcome students from the University of North  
10 Texas Roberto R. Alonzo Bilingual/ESL Education Scholars Program to  
11 the Capitol and commend them for their commitment and dedication to  
12 the children of Texas.