

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 98

**WHEREAS**, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to recognize The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, one of the world's most respected centers devoted exclusively to cancer patient care, research, education, and prevention; and

**WHEREAS**, The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center is well known the world over for its multidisciplinary approach to treating cancer; since 1944, more than 600,000 cancer patients have received treatment at the facility; and

**WHEREAS**, The center's cancer research program is one of the most productive efforts in the world and ranks first in the number of grants awarded by the National Cancer Institute; each year, the center's educational programs provide training to several hundred residents and fellows who receive specialized training in the investigation and treatment of cancer; and

**WHEREAS**, One of the center's most innovative programs is the annual rehabilitation trip in January to the National Ability Center in Park City, Utah; funded by the Children's Art Project, the trip provides pediatric cancer patients time away from cancer treatments and time to enjoy breathtaking scenery and outdoor activities; and

**WHEREAS**, The rehabilitation program offers the patients snow-skiing lessons, giving them an opportunity to acquire a new skill and gain a sense of accomplishment; the patients gain confidence as their skiing skills progress and often participate in other activities, such as swimming in a heated pool, driving snowmobiles, and dancing, with newfound assurance; and

**WHEREAS**, The ski trip was conceived by Dr. Norman Jaffe, a pediatric oncologist and a professor at The University of Texas, after hearing a young cancer patient, Ted Kennedy, Jr., describe his adventures on the ski slopes; Dr. Jaffe realized that skiing could be a novel form of physical rehabilitation and, with a crew of volunteers and specially trained ski instructors, began taking pediatric cancer patients to the mountains each year; and

**WHEREAS**, Besides the benefits of physical rehabilitation, the ski trip offers psychosocial rehabilitation; the cancer patients and survivors gain confidence and give each other hope and support as they master new skills and make new friends; the trip facilitates both physical and social healing and gives parents reassurance regarding their children's abilities; and

**WHEREAS**, With more than 12,000 employees and a volunteer workforce of approximately 1,400, the M. D. Anderson Cancer Center is a vital force in the City of Houston and our state, and its services have had a positive impact on the lives of people around the world; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 79th Legislature, hereby pay tribute to The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center for its excellent treatment programs and commend all the people involved with the annual rehabilitation ski trip for young cancer patients; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared as an expression of high regard from the Texas Senate.

		Fraser
Barrientos	Hinojosa	Nelson
Deuell	Jackson	Shapiro
Duncan	Janek	Van de Putte
Ellis	Lindsay	Wentworth
Gallegos	Lucio	Williams
Harris	Madla	Zaffirini

Dewhurst, President of the Senate

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on February 9, 2005.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate