

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 1040

**WHEREAS**, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to recognize the Texas Institute for Health Policy Research, a nonpartisan organization focused on improving the health of Texans through health policy education, community-based solutions, and information dissemination; and

**WHEREAS**, Since 2000, the institute has hosted health policy forums for the benefit of legislators and other health-care stakeholders on topics such as the uninsured, the health-care workforce, mental health, long-term care, emergency care, the health safety net, and the state of health care in Texas; and

**WHEREAS**, Since 1997, the institute has worked with communities throughout Texas to facilitate, develop, and sustain community-based interventions to solve pertinent health-care issues, such as access to care, chronic disease prevention, and others; and

**WHEREAS**, The institute hosts workshops or forums to bring community organizations from throughout the State of Texas together to share best practices; and

**WHEREAS**, In 2003, the institute began the Shared Vision for Health Care in Texas Project (Shared Vision Project) to establish a forum for dialogue among policymakers, community leaders, health-care providers, payers, and consumers for informed decision making among all of the stakeholders; and

**WHEREAS**, The governor, the lieutenant governor, and the speaker of the house of representatives have each appointed a liaison to work with the institute on the Shared Vision Project, to which more than 600 volunteers have contributed their time, talent, and expertise; and

**WHEREAS**, The project is a collaborative, statewide effort that brings stakeholders together to provide leadership in developing innovative practices and ideas to improve the state's health care and health status; and

**WHEREAS**, One of the fundamental features of the project is that stakeholders from every sector involved in health-care issues are included in developing the vision via a diverse, bipartisan panel of 29 members; and

**WHEREAS**, Another essential feature is the development of focused work groups of experts to provide consultation and facilitation in key health policy areas to all project participants; and

**WHEREAS**, The topics addressed by these work groups include public health, health-care delivery, workforce, financing of health care, information technology, and rural health; and

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**WHEREAS**, The work groups are collecting white papers on best practices and designing, overseeing, and providing guidance in developing model demonstration projects to test ideas for improving health and health status in Texas; and

**WHEREAS**, The outcomes of these projects will be shared with health policy decision makers and stakeholders; and

**WHEREAS**, The Shared Vision Project is creating an opportunity for the strategic transformation of health care in Texas, a methodology that makes Texas unique in the United States; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 79th Legislature, hereby commend the leadership of the 29-member panel, six work groups, and the Texas Institute for Health Policy Research and welcome them in their endeavors to provide input, recommendations, innovations, ideas, and solutions to health-care issues via the Shared Vision Project; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for the Texas Institute for Health Policy Research as an expression of esteem from the Texas Senate.

Nelson

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on May 27, 2005.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate