

By: Woolley

H.R. No. 1808

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Under the leadership of its current president, Dr.
2 James T. Willerson, The University of Texas Health Science Center
3 at Houston is celebrating its 35th anniversary this year; and

4 WHEREAS, One of the most comprehensive health science centers
5 in the southwestern United States, the UT Health Science Center
6 incorporates schools of medicine, dentistry, public health,
7 nursing, biomedical science, and health informatics, and a
8 psychiatric hospital; and

9 WHEREAS, Since the Health Science Center's inception in 1972,
10 the institution has made significant contributions to the education
11 of the health care workforce in Texas; over the years, more than
12 29,000 students have earned their degrees there, and at present the
13 center's student body numbers over 3,600, the largest enrollment of
14 any health education institution in Texas; and

15 WHEREAS, The UT Health Science Center provides invaluable
16 services to improve the health status of countless Texans as well as
17 people throughout the world; the institution is located in the
18 Texas Medical Center, which receives a combined 5.5 million patient
19 visits a year; and

20 WHEREAS, The research staff of the various divisions of the
21 UT Health Science Center have dedicated themselves to advancing
22 medical knowledge in myriad ways; the School of Public Health and
23 its five regional campuses have instituted an important program to
24 fight childhood obesity; scientists at the Brown Foundation

1 Institute of Molecular Medicine for the Prevention of Human Disease
2 are working to identify the causes and find cures and prevention
3 strategies for hypertension, stroke, and heart disease; the Center
4 for Clinical and Translation Sciences aims to apply new advances in
5 science to real world practice with the benefit of a \$36 million
6 grant from the National Institutes of Health; also in the works are
7 a new home for the UT Dental Branch, a center for biomedical
8 research focusing on regenerative medicine, and an advanced imaging
9 facility; and

10 WHEREAS, In order to improve health and educate the public,
11 the UT Health Science Center has collaborated with such
12 institutions as the Children's Learning Institute, Memorial
13 Hermann Health Care System, the Texas Heart Institute, the
14 Institute for Rehabilitation and Research, the Harris County
15 Hospital District, the Tex Gen Project, and others; and

16 WHEREAS, President of the Health Science Center since 2001,
17 Dr. James Willerson is a recognized world leader in the use of adult
18 stem cells in repairing damaged heart tissue; during his tenure, he
19 has recruited exceptional researchers, students, and faculty,
20 raised \$670 million in contributions, and overseen the improvement
21 and construction of campus facilities; his integrity and
22 professionalism set the standard as the center renews its mission
23 to improve the health and quality of life for all people through
24 education, research, and clinical practice; now, therefore, be it

25 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
26 Legislature hereby congratulate Dr. James Willerson and The
27 University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston on the

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1 center's 35th anniversary and extend to its researchers, faculty,
2 students, and staff best wishes for continued success; and, be it
3 further

4 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
5 prepared for Dr. Willerson and the Health Science Center as an
6 expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.