

1 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, As the largest of the 48 contiguous states and
3 ranking second only to California in terms of population, the State
4 of Texas faces unique challenges to providing adequate access to
5 primary health care for its residents; and

6 WHEREAS, As of September of 2006, 113 Texas counties, home to
7 more than 3 million Texans, were designated as primary care health
8 professional shortage areas by the United States Department of
9 Health and Human Services; under related federal standards, an even
10 larger portion of the state qualifies as medically underserved,
11 with 177 entire Texas counties and parts of 47 other counties
12 receiving that designation; and

13 WHEREAS, Working through a cooperative agreement with the
14 federal Health Resources and Services Administration, the Texas
15 Primary Care Office has as its mission the improvement of access to
16 medical, dental, and mental health care services for the state's
17 underserved populations by recruiting and retaining primary care
18 providers to practice in federally designated shortage areas; and

19 WHEREAS, Similarly, the federal National Health Service
20 Corps works with educational institutions, students, professional
21 organizations, clinicians, and underserved communities around the
22 nation to deliver primary health care, including dental, mental,
23 and behavioral health care, by developing innovative solutions to
24 improve recruitment, preparation, and retention of health

1 professionals; and

2 WHEREAS, The National Health Service Corps Ambassador
3 Program seeks to accomplish these goals by engaging university- and
4 community-based volunteers to link students and clinicians with
5 employment opportunities in underserved communities that match
6 their career interests, to prepare and train students and
7 clinicians to work in health professional shortage areas by
8 connecting them to clinical rotations, and to mentor students and
9 clinicians with one-on-one counseling to maintain interest and
10 commitment to serving the underserved; and

11 WHEREAS, Although the Texas Primary Care Office is the Texas
12 liaison with the National Health Service Corps, currently there is
13 no formal connection between the office and the National Health
14 Service Corps Ambassador Program; clearly, the state would benefit
15 from a coordination of effort between the program and the primary
16 care office, bringing much-needed additional resources to the areas
17 of Texas that remain underserved by health care professionals; now,
18 therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, That the 80th Legislature of the State of Texas
20 hereby encourage the National Health Service Corps Ambassador
21 Program to coordinate with the Primary Care Office at the Texas
22 Department of State Health Services; and, be it further

23 RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward an
24 official copy of this resolution to the secretary of the United
25 States Department of Health and Human Services, the chair of the
26 National Advisory Council on the National Health Service Corps, and
27 the commissioner of the Texas Department of State Health Services.

S.C.R. No. 1

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.C.R. No. 1 was adopted by the Senate on March 14, 2007.

Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.C.R. No. 1 was adopted by the House on May 23, 2007.

Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

Date

Governor