

1-1 By: Nelson S.C.R. No. 1
1-2 (In the Senate-Filed November 13, 2006; February 14, 2007,
1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on Health and Human
1-4 Services; February 26, 2007, reported favorably by the following
1-5 vote: Yeas 7, Nays 0; February 26, 2007, sent to printer.)

1-6 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1-7 WHEREAS, As the largest of the 48 contiguous states and
1-8 ranking second only to California in terms of population, the State
1-9 of Texas faces unique challenges to providing adequate access to
1-10 primary health care for its residents; and

1-11 WHEREAS, As of September of 2006, 113 Texas counties, home to
1-12 more than 3 million Texans, were designated as primary care health
1-13 professional shortage areas by the United States Department of
1-14 Health and Human Services; under related federal standards, an even
1-15 larger portion of the state qualifies as medically underserved,
1-16 with 177 entire Texas counties and parts of 47 other counties
1-17 receiving that designation; and

1-18 WHEREAS, Working through a cooperative agreement with the
1-19 federal Health Resources and Services Administration, the Texas
1-20 Primary Care Office has as its mission the improvement of access to
1-21 medical, dental, and mental health care services for the state's
1-22 underserved populations by recruiting and retaining primary care
1-23 providers to practice in federally designated shortage areas; and

1-24 WHEREAS, Similarly, the federal National Health Service
1-25 Corps works with educational institutions, students, professional
1-26 organizations, clinicians, and underserved communities around the
1-27 nation to deliver primary health care, including dental, mental,
1-28 and behavioral health care, by developing innovative solutions to
1-29 improve recruitment, preparation, and retention of health
1-30 professionals; and

1-31 WHEREAS, The National Health Service Corps Ambassador
1-32 Program seeks to accomplish these goals by engaging university- and
1-33 community-based volunteers to link students and clinicians with
1-34 employment opportunities in underserved communities that match
1-35 their career interests, to prepare and train students and
1-36 clinicians to work in health professional shortage areas by
1-37 connecting them to clinical rotations, and to mentor students and
1-38 clinicians with one-on-one counseling to maintain interest and
1-39 commitment to serving the underserved; and

1-40 WHEREAS, Although the Texas Primary Care Office is the Texas
1-41 liaison with the National Health Service Corps, currently there is
1-42 no formal connection between the office and the National Health
1-43 Service Corps Ambassador Program; clearly, the state would benefit
1-44 from a coordination of effort between the program and the primary
1-45 care office, bringing much-needed additional resources to the areas
1-46 of Texas that remain underserved by health care professionals; now,
1-47 therefore, be it

1-48 RESOLVED, That the 80th Legislature of the State of Texas
1-49 hereby encourage the National Health Service Corps Ambassador
1-50 Program to coordinate with the Primary Care Office at the Texas
1-51 Department of State Health Services; and, be it further

1-52 RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward an
1-53 official copy of this resolution to the secretary of the United
1-54 States Department of Health and Human Services, the chair of the
1-55 National Advisory Council on the National Health Service Corps, and
1-56 the commissioner of the Texas Department of State Health Services.

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