

By: Davis of Harris

H.R. No. 64

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Albert Hawkins is retiring as executive
2 commissioner of the Texas Health and Human Services Commission on
3 August 31, 2009, and it is most fitting to recognize him for his
4 outstanding leadership as his tenure draws to a close; and

5 WHEREAS, Appointed by Governor Rick Perry in January 2003,
6 Mr. Hawkins directs the operations of five health and human
7 services agencies with more than 50,000 employees and a combined
8 budget of about \$55 billion; during his tenure, he oversaw the
9 consolidation of 12 agencies into five and he initiated substantial
10 enhancements in child and adult protective services; widely
11 recognized as a budget expert, he instituted administrative changes
12 in the Texas Medicaid program that have saved millions of dollars,
13 as well as innovations that include personalized treatment plans
14 for clients with chronic health issues and electronic health
15 passports for children from foster homes; and

16 WHEREAS, Mr. Hawkins met the challenges of natural disasters
17 with compassion and efficiency; by ensuring the availability of
18 federal resources, he avoided overburdening Texas taxpayers while
19 providing timely aid to victims of Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and
20 Ike; during his tenure, HHSC won increased federal funding for
21 services, more than doubling Upper Payment Limits for doctors and
22 hospitals and significantly increasing funding for services to the
23 deaf and hearing impaired; moreover, Mr. Hawkins worked with the
24 legislature to expand community placement options to serve an

1 additional 20,000 clients with disabilities and special health care
2 needs; and

3 WHEREAS, A Fort Worth native, Mr. Hawkins worked his way
4 through The University of Texas at Austin as a postal service
5 employee and earned his master's degree in public affairs from the
6 Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs; he joined the Texas
7 Legislative Budget Board in 1978 as a program analyst and
8 eventually became deputy director of the agency; from 1995 to 2000,
9 he served as budget director for Governor George W. Bush, and he
10 went on to serve on the senior staff in the Bush White House as
11 assistant to the president and secretary to the cabinet; and

12 WHEREAS, This dynamic 35-year veteran of government service
13 has received numerous accolades, including the Whitney M. Young
14 Award of the Austin Urban League, the Outstanding Leadership Award
15 of the Austin Chapter of Blacks in Government, and the Bob Bullock
16 Award for Outstanding Public Stewardship; he received an honorary
17 doctorate in public service from the University of North Texas
18 Health Science Center and was named a distinguished alumnus by the
19 LBJ School; in addition, he was named Texas State Administrator of
20 the Year for 1998; he has served his local community as chair of the
21 Austin Area Urban League, as board treasurer of the Capital Area
22 United Way, as a mentor and board member of Project M.A.N., Inc.,
23 and as a member of the board of Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Austin;
24 and

25 WHEREAS, Highly respected for his integrity, dedication, and
26 uncompromising commitment to excellence and fiscal responsibility,
27 Albert Hawkins skillfully guided the Health and Human Services

1 Commission through a time of considerable change, and he may indeed
2 reflect with pride on his many accomplishments; now, therefore, be
3 it

4 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
5 Legislature, 1st Called Session, hereby congratulate Albert
6 Hawkins on his retirement as executive commissioner of the Texas
7 Health and Human Services Commission and extend to him sincere best
8 wishes for continued success and happiness; and, be it further

9 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
10 prepared for Mr. Hawkins as an expression of high regard by the
11 Texas House of Representatives.