

By: Alonzo

H.R. No. 298

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The face of Texas is rapidly changing, and
2 demographic trends indicate that Hispanics will likely make up a
3 majority of the population within the next decade; as a result, the
4 state is in great need of more certified bilingual teachers, and a
5 program at the University of North Texas is wisely addressing that
6 need; and

7 WHEREAS, In collaboration with the Texas Higher Education
8 Coordinating Board, UNT is offering the Roberto R. Alonzo
9 Bilingual/ESL Education Scholars Program to provide tuition
10 assistance and loan forgiveness as incentives for students to
11 pursue certification programs in bilingual or ESL education;
12 covering tuition, fees, and a small book allowance, the
13 scholarships are available for up to 25 students and provide a total
14 of \$300,000 in funding to junior and senior education students at
15 UNT; and

16 WHEREAS, Students enrolled in this program must maintain at
17 least a 2.75 grade point average, meet financial aid requirements,
18 dedicate the majority of their classes to early childhood to
19 fourth-grade level bilingual or ESL courses, as well as agree to
20 teach full-time as a certified teacher in early childhood through
21 fourth-grade bilingual or ESL classes at a public school in Texas
22 for five years; and

23 WHEREAS, Equipping future teachers with fluency in the
24 Spanish language that will facilitate the delivery of content in

1 the classroom as well as encouraging respect and appreciation of
2 linguistic and cultural differences are important priorities of the
3 UNT program, and student participants may not only take pride in the
4 fact that they will be in high demand on graduation but also that
5 they are providing a service that is vital to the future of our
6 state by attending to the needs of the growing population of
7 Spanish-speaking schoolchildren; now, therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
9 Legislature hereby honor participants in the University of North
10 Texas Roberto R. Alonzo Bilingual/ESL Education Scholars Program
11 for 2009 and commend them for their commitment and dedication to the
12 children of Texas.