

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Department of Rehabilitation at The University
2 of Texas--Pan American provides a comprehensive, high-quality
3 education to both undergraduate and graduate students seeking
4 careers assisting people with disabilities; and

5 WHEREAS, Since 1992, the department has expanded from two
6 faculty members to 11 and today has one of the largest
7 rehabilitation counseling programs in the country; the master's
8 program in rehabilitation counseling was ranked in the top 25 in the
9 2009 edition of *America's Best Graduate Schools* published by *U.S.*
10 *News & World Report*; the department's faculty includes many members
11 who hold leadership positions in rehabilitation organizations, as
12 well as recognized experts in such specializations as psychiatric
13 disabilities, addictions, and assistive technology; and

14 WHEREAS, Undergraduate students gain valuable field
15 experience and enjoy numerous opportunities for professional
16 development through community involvement; a 2007 report in
17 *Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education* recognized the department for
18 graduating more Hispanics than any other rehabilitation program in
19 the nation, and its bilingual graduates are in great demand in South
20 Texas and across the country; and

21 WHEREAS, In order to meet the growing need for rehabilitation
22 educators, the department has plans to offer a Ph.D. in
23 rehabilitation counseling beginning in fall 2009; only 26
24 universities in the United States offer such a curriculum, and the

1 program will be the only one of its kind in Texas; and

2 WHEREAS, The UTPA Department of Rehabilitation promotes a
3 philosophy of dignity and respect for all people, and its courses
4 integrate theory and practice to give students thorough preparation
5 for the important roles that they will play in their communities,
6 providing vital services to people with disabilities; and

7 WHEREAS, Representative Aaron Peña has justly recognized the
8 UTPA Department of Rehabilitation by authoring this resolution in
9 its honor; now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
11 Legislature hereby recognize the Department of Rehabilitation at
12 The University of Texas--Pan American and extend best wishes for
13 continued success to its students, faculty, and staff; and, be it
14 further

15 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
16 prepared for the department as an expression of high regard by the
17 Texas House of Representatives.

Peña

H.R. No. 654

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 654 was adopted by the House on March 12, 2009, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House