

By: Shelton

H.R. No. 667

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Texas Medical Association physicians, resident
2 physicians, medical students, and Alliance members are visiting the
3 State Capitol on the first Tuesday of every month during the 81st
4 Texas Legislature to discuss issues of importance to the medical
5 profession; and

6 WHEREAS, The TMA and the TMA Alliance began the First
7 Tuesdays program at the State Capitol in 2003; and

8 WHEREAS, During each session since then, TMA physicians, TMA
9 Alliance members, residents, and medical students have come to
10 Austin from across Texas to visit their senators and
11 representatives to discuss the association's legislative agenda;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, The First Tuesdays at the Capitol program has grown
14 steadily and has become a resounding success; the number of "white
15 coats" walking the halls of the Capitol makes a big impression, as
16 physicians advocate policy solutions to improve health care
17 delivery for their patients; and

18 WHEREAS, The Texas Medical Association and the Texas Medical
19 Association Alliance work together to train, provide policy and
20 legislative briefings, and provide support to all First Tuesday
21 participants so that they are able to educate senators and
22 representatives and their staffs about TMA's legislative
23 proposals; and

24 WHEREAS, In 2009, those taking part in First Tuesdays at the

1 Capitol will discuss the need for health insurance reform, for
2 protecting medical liability reforms, to improve funding and reduce
3 administrative burdens for the Medicaid and CHIP programs, to
4 increase patient safety, and for keeping new medical school
5 graduates in Texas; they will also discuss finding constructive
6 solutions to reducing obesity, increasing immunizations, and
7 dealing with other public health issues; and

8 WHEREAS, April 7, 2009, is the day set aside for medical
9 students and residents, those representing the next generation of
10 Texas physicians, to share their ideas on improving medical care
11 and on helping Texas continue to be the best state in which to
12 practice medicine; and

13 WHEREAS, The "White Coat Invasions" on February 3, March 3,
14 April 7, and May 5, 2009, allow the skilled and hardworking
15 physicians of Texas the opportunity to make their concerns known
16 directly to their elected representatives, and this monthly event
17 is truly worthy of recognition; now, therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
19 Legislature hereby welcome the participants in the First Tuesdays
20 at the Capitol program of the Texas Medical Association and the
21 Texas Medical Association Alliance and extend best wishes to the
22 medical care professionals who are giving their time to this
23 important endeavor.