

By: Truitt

H.R. No. 2535

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Dr. Josie R. Williams of Bryan recently completed
2 her distinguished tenure as the 143rd president of the Texas
3 Medical Association; and

4 WHEREAS, The largest state medical society in the United
5 States, TMA counts nearly 44,000 physicians and medical students as
6 members; its objective since 1853 has been to improve the health of
7 all Texans, and Dr. Williams demonstrated exceptional skill and
8 dedication in working toward this goal; after serving as
9 president-elect in 2007, she took office in 2008 and soon
10 thereafter directed the TMA Councils on Scientific Affairs and
11 Socioeconomics to conduct a case study on quality improvement and
12 patient safety initiatives in the Lone Star State; the report
13 profiled a dozen different programs being conducted in a variety of
14 practice settings; and

15 WHEREAS, In addition, Dr. Williams advocated forcefully for
16 expanding medical research, for instituting independent reviews of
17 insurance policy rescission, and for improving health care by
18 increasing the amount of quality time doctors spend with their
19 patients; under her direction, TMA launched a grassroots outreach
20 campaign, Patients' Right to Know, promoting greater transparency
21 and accountability in health insurance coverage; and

22 WHEREAS, This dynamic leader has served on numerous TMA
23 committees over the past 17 years, and joined the organization's
24 board of trustees in 2001; she has been a state delegate to the

1 American Medical Association since 1994 and has served as medical
2 director of the Texas Health Quality Alliance, as a member of the
3 National Patient Safety Foundation Board of Governors, and as a
4 trustee of the American Medical Association's Physician Consortium
5 for Performance Improvement; and

6 WHEREAS, Deeply committed to the medical field, Dr. Williams
7 began her career as a registered nurse in the United States Air
8 Force; she began serving as a surgical ward nurse at Ellsworth Air
9 Force Base in South Dakota in 1962 and went on to become chief nurse
10 at Bergstrom Air Force Base in Austin, where she received a medal of
11 commendation; she earned her medical degree in 1975 from The
12 University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio Medical
13 School and also holds a master's degree in medical management and is
14 a certified physician executive; and

15 WHEREAS, Dr. Williams serves on the faculty of The Texas A&M
16 University System Health Science Center College of Medicine as an
17 assistant professor in the Department of Internal Medicine, and she
18 directs the school's Rural and Community Health Institute and the
19 Institute for Healthcare Evaluation; the former director of the
20 Quality and Patient Safety program at the health science center,
21 she enjoys national recognition as an expert in measuring quality
22 of care; and

23 WHEREAS, Josie Williams has guided the Texas Medical
24 Association with remarkable vision and a tireless commitment to her
25 profession and to the well-being of her fellow citizens, and it is
26 indeed a pleasure to recognize her for her outstanding leadership;
27 now, therefore, be it

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1 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
2 Legislature hereby honor Josie R. Williams for her contributions as
3 president of the Texas Medical Association and extend to her best
4 wishes for continued success; and, be it further

5 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
6 prepared for Dr. Williams as an expression of high regard by the
7 Texas House of Representatives.