

By: Craddick

H.R. No. 127

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, John Mendelsohn, M.D., is stepping down as president  
2 of The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center on September  
3 1, 2011, concluding 15 years of dedicated service in which he has  
4 made significant contributions to cancer research, treatment,  
5 education, and prevention; and

6           WHEREAS, Dr. Mendelsohn has accomplished much during his  
7 tenure, perhaps most notably growing the institution's budget and  
8 capacity to double their previous size; he has also implemented new  
9 priorities for integrated programs in patient care, research,  
10 education, and cancer prevention, and under his direction, M. D.  
11 Anderson has been named the top cancer hospital in the nation seven  
12 times in the *U.S. News & World Report* "America's Best Hospitals"  
13 survey; and

14           WHEREAS, A cum laude graduate of Harvard Medical School,  
15 Dr. Mendelsohn served his residency in internal medicine at Brigham  
16 and Women's Hospital in Boston and completed fellowships at the  
17 National Institutes of Health and the Washington University School  
18 of Medicine; in 1970, he joined the faculty of the University of  
19 California San Diego, where he became the founding director of a  
20 National Cancer Institute-designated cancer center; he went on to  
21 chair the department of medicine at the Memorial Sloan-Kettering  
22 Cancer Center from 1985 to 1996 and to hold the hospital's Winthrop  
23 Rockefeller Chair in Medical Oncology; and

24           WHEREAS, Dr. Mendelsohn's research while serving as

1 professor and vice chair of medicine at Weill Cornell Medical  
2 College pioneered the concept of targeted anti-receptor therapy as  
3 a new form of cancer treatment; that groundbreaking work earned him  
4 the Dan David Prize in Cancer Therapy, and antibody 225 was approved  
5 by the FDA for colon cancer in 2004 and for head and neck cancer in  
6 2006; in addition, he has authored more than 250 scientific papers  
7 and articles and was the founding editor of *Clinical Cancer*  
8 *Research* for 10 years; and

9         WHEREAS, The recipient of numerous other prestigious honors,  
10 Dr. Mendelsohn is a member of the Institute of Medicine of the  
11 National Academy of Sciences, and in 2010, he was elected as the  
12 first chair of the Worldwide Innovative Networking Consortium in  
13 Personalized Cancer Medicine; his passion remains developing and  
14 testing new cancer therapies, and he will continue his affiliation  
15 with M. D. Anderson as codirector of the new Sheikh Khalifa Bin  
16 Zayed Al Nahyan Institute for Personalized Cancer Therapy; and

17         WHEREAS, The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center  
18 is today among the most sophisticated and advanced cancer centers  
19 in the world, thanks in part to the far-reaching vision of Dr. John  
20 Mendelsohn, and the full impact of his exceptional leadership will  
21 continue to resonate for years to come; now, therefore, be it

22         RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas  
23 Legislature, 1st Called Session, hereby honor Dr. John Mendelsohn  
24 for his outstanding direction of The University of Texas M. D.  
25 Anderson Cancer Center and commend him for his lifelong commitment  
26 to medical science; and, be it further

27         RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be

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1 prepared for Dr. Mendelsohn as an expression of high regard by the  
2 Texas House of Representatives.