

By: Alonzo

H.R. No. 47

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 junior and senior education
14 students at UNT; and

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

22 WHEREAS, Equipping future teachers with fluency in the
23 Spanish language that will facilitate the delivery of content in
24 the classroom as well as encouraging respect and appreciation of

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

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
8 Legislature hereby honor participants in the University of North
9 Texas Roberto R. Alonzo Bilingual/ESL Education Scholars Program
10 for 2012 and commend them for their commitment and dedication to the
11 children of Texas.