

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The West Texas Area Health Education Center Program
2 has improved access to health care in more than 100 counties through
3 the education and development of the medical workforce; and

4 WHEREAS, West Texas is one of the most medically underserved
5 regions in the United States; with a predominantly rural population
6 of approximately 2.8 million people, it encompasses a land mass
7 larger than all but four of the states; 64 of its counties have been
8 designated as Health Professions Shortage Areas, and another 15
9 have a partial county or population HPSA designation; the West
10 Texas Area Health Education Center Program, since its founding in
11 2002, has sought to address the health care provider shortage by
12 increasing the number of future rural health care providers and
13 supporting the retention of professionals currently practicing;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Established by the Texas Tech University Health
16 Sciences Center, F. Marie Hall Institute of Rural and Community
17 Health, the West Texas Area Health Education Center Program
18 coordinates the efforts of educational institutions, health care
19 providers, communities, and counties; the program's five centers,
20 located in Abilene, Amarillo, El Paso, Midland, and Plainview, are
21 hosted by local organizations in partnership with the Texas Tech
22 University Health Sciences Center; they belong to a national
23 network of Area Health Education Centers, which was created by
24 Congress in 1971 to enhance access to quality health care,

1 particularly primary and preventive care, by recruiting, training,
2 and retaining health care professionals for communities with
3 critical needs; and

4 WHEREAS, Because young people raised in underserved settings
5 are more likely than others to consider practicing in such a
6 setting, the West Texas Area Health Education Center Program
7 educates local schoolchildren about careers in the medical field,
8 prepares them for these opportunities and encourages their
9 progress, and conducts targeted outreaches to minorities, now
10 underrepresented in the health care professions; its
11 community-based clinical training programs introduce health care
12 professions students to underserved communities while enhancing
13 the ability of those communities to recruit new professionals; in
14 addition, the West Texas Area Health Education Center Program
15 provides health needs assessment and planning, coalition building,
16 and strategic prioritization to avert future personnel shortages
17 and to ensure that the current workforce is well trained; and

18 WHEREAS, Improved access to high-quality health care
19 strengthens communities, and the West Texas Area Health Education
20 Center Program has greatly benefited quality of life and economic
21 development in the region; now, therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
23 Legislature hereby honor the West Texas Area Health Education
24 Center Program for its outstanding contributions in behalf of the
25 residents of West Texas and extend to all those associated with the
26 program sincere best wishes for continued success in their vital
27 endeavors; and, be it further

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1 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
2 prepared for the West Texas Area Health Education Center Program as
3 an expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.

Quintanilla
Keffer
Gallego
Chisum
Marquez

Straus	Gonzales of Williamson	Morrison
Aliseda	Gonzalez	Munoz, Jr.
Allen	Gooden	Murphy
Alonzo	Guillen	Naishtat
Alvarado	Gutierrez	Nash
Anchia	Hamilton	Oliveira
Anderson of Dallas	Hancock	Orr
Anderson of McLennan	Hardcastle	Otto
Aycock	Harless	Parker
Beck	Harper-Brown	Patrick
Berman	Hartnett	Paxton
Bohac	Hernandez Luna	Pena
Bonnen	Hilderbran	Perry
Branch	Hochberg	Phillips
Brown	Hopson	Pickett
Burkett	Howard of Fort Bend	Pitts
Burnam	Howard of Travis	Price
Button	Huberty	Quintanilla
Cain	Hughes	Raymond
Callegari	Hunter	Reynolds
Carter	Isaac	Riddle
Castro	Jackson	Ritter
Chisum	Johnson	Rodriguez
Christian	Keffer	Schwertner
Coleman	King of Parker	Scott
Cook	King of Taylor	Sheets
Craddick	King of Zavala	Sheffield
Creighton	Kleinschmidt	Shelton
Crownover	Kolkhorst	Simpson
Darby	Kuempel	Smith of Harris
Davis of Dallas	Landtroop	Smith of Tarrant
J. Davis of Harris	Larson	Smithee
S. Davis of Harris	Laubenberg	Solomons
Deshotel	Lavender	Strama
Driver	Legler	Taylor of Collin
Dukes	Lewis	Taylor of Galveston
Dutton	Lozano	Thompson
Eiland	Lucio III	Torres
Eissler	Lyne	Truitt
Elkins	Madden	Turner
Farias	Mallory Caraway	Veasey
Farrar	Margo	Villarreal
Fletcher	Marquez	Vo
Flynn	Martinez	Walle
Frullo	Martinez Fischer	Weber
Gallego	McClendon	White
Garza	Menendez	Woolley
Geren	Miles	Workman
Giddings	Miller of Comal	Zedler
Gonzales of Hidalgo	Miller of Erath	Zerwas

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 418 was adopted by the House on February 22, 2011, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House