

By: Alonzo

H.R. No. 63

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 scholarships
10 as incentives for students to pursue certification programs in
11 bilingual or ESL education; covering tuition and fees, the
12 scholarships are available to junior and senior undergraduate and
13 postbaccalaureate students at UNT; and

14 WHEREAS, Students enrolled in this program must maintain at
15 least a 2.75 grade point average, meet financial aid requirements,
16 and use the scholarship funds to pay for courses and fees related to
17 early childhood to sixth-grade bilingual or ESL generalist
18 certification; an average of 30 UNT students benefit from the
19 scholarship program each semester; and

20 WHEREAS, Equipping future teachers with fluency in the
21 Spanish language that will facilitate the delivery of content in
22 the classroom as well as encouraging respect and appreciation of
23 linguistic and cultural differences are important priorities of the
24 UNT program, and student participants may take pride in the fact

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1 that they are providing a service that is vital to the future of our
2 state by attending to the needs of the growing population of
3 Spanish-speaking schoolchildren; now, therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
5 Legislature hereby honor participants in the University of North
6 Texas Roberto R. Alonzo Bilingual/ESL Education Scholars Program
7 for 2013 and commend them for their commitment and dedication to the
8 children of Texas.