

By: Raymond

H.R. No. 234

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, After more than a quarter-century in public service,
2 Thomas Suehs retired as executive commissioner of the Texas Health
3 and Human Services Commission on August 31, 2012; and

4 WHEREAS, Tom Suehs assumed the post of executive commissioner
5 in 2009, after having served the agency as deputy executive
6 commissioner for financial services since 2003; under his
7 leadership, HHSC dramatically streamlined its processing of
8 applications for federal benefits and became one of the
9 top-performing states in this regard; Texas also obtained approval
10 to replace an archaic federal hospital funding system and expanded
11 the use of Medicaid managed care to control costs while improving
12 coordination of services; moreover, the state formed an innovative
13 partnership with local food banks to assist families more swiftly
14 while reducing the workload at state offices; and

15 WHEREAS, Over the course of his long tenure in government,
16 Mr. Suehs served as deputy commissioner of the Texas Department of
17 Mental Health and Mental Retardation and as associate commissioner
18 of the Texas Department of Human Services; his broad experience in
19 health care included time in the private sector as executive
20 director of the Texas Health Care Association and as a consultant
21 for Coyle Kelly & Associates; in addition, he served as president of
22 the American Society of State Health Care Executives; and

23 WHEREAS, This distinguished Texan holds a bachelor's degree
24 from Texas State University and an MBA from The University of Texas

1 at Austin; over the years, he has received numerous accolades,
2 among them the Bob Bullock Award for Outstanding Public
3 Stewardship, the Administrator of the Year award from the Texas
4 Public Employees Association, the Better Life Award from the Texas
5 Health Care Association, and the Patient Advocacy Award from the
6 Texas Academy of Family Physicians; and

7 WHEREAS, Active in the wider community as well, Mr. Suehs is a
8 member of the board of International Orthodox Christian Charities
9 and of the Order of St. Andrew, Archons of the Ecumenical
10 Patriarchate, which works to support religious freedom and human
11 rights; and

12 WHEREAS, Tom Suehs gave unstintingly of his talents and
13 expertise in behalf of the people of Texas throughout his career in
14 government, and his exceptional contributions will continue to
15 benefit his fellow citizens in the years to come; now, therefore, be
16 it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
18 Legislature hereby honor Thomas Suehs for his accomplishments as
19 executive commissioner of the Texas Health and Human Services
20 Commission and extend sincere appreciation for his dedicated
21 leadership; and, be it further

22 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
23 prepared for Mr. Suehs as an expression of high regard by the Texas
24 House of Representatives.