

By: Farias

H.R. No. 1372

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Texas A&M University--San Antonio has greatly
2 benefited from the dynamic leadership of Dr. Maria Hernandez
3 Ferrier, the institution's inaugural president; and

4 WHEREAS, Dr. Ferrier assumed the presidency on February 12,
5 2010, having served for two years as executive director and interim
6 president during A&M--San Antonio's transition from a system center
7 to a stand-alone university; in addition to guiding the campus
8 through that transformative period, she has provided effective
9 stewardship of institutional resources and has nurtured strategic
10 partnerships with businesses and community members as well as with
11 local, state, and national leaders; committed to serving the needs
12 of area students, she has worked to promote A&M--San Antonio's
13 expansion from a center offering only upper-level courses to a
14 comprehensive four-year undergraduate school; and

15 WHEREAS, This esteemed administrator is a graduate of Our
16 Lady of the Lake University, where she earned a bachelor's degree in
17 speech and a master's degree in guidance and counseling; she went on
18 to complete her doctorate in educational administration at Texas
19 A&M and spent 20 years working as a counselor and speech therapist
20 in San Antonio schools; and

21 WHEREAS, In 1992, after working for the Corporation for
22 National and Community Service under President George H. W. Bush,
23 Dr. Ferrier was named Director of Bilingual Education and Minority
24 Language Affairs for the U.S. Department of Education; President

1 George W. Bush appointed her in 2002 to direct an office within the
2 department that focused on students with limited English
3 proficiency; accepting increasing responsibility through the
4 years, she was eventually named assistant deputy secretary of the
5 department, and in that role, she served as a principal advisor to
6 the secretary and as a liaison between the department and the
7 business community; and

8 WHEREAS, Dr. Ferrier's other accomplishments include helping
9 to develop and implement such programs as City Year, a national
10 service organization that became the model for AmeriCorps, and
11 Partners in Pride, the first in-school mentoring program in Texas;
12 moreover, she initiated the first elementary school chapter of
13 Students Against Driving Drunk; and

14 WHEREAS, Highly active in professional and civic groups, Dr.
15 Ferrier has shared her expertise as a member of the Council of
16 Public University Presidents and Chancellors and as co-chair of the
17 National Leadership Team for the Hispanic Association of Colleges
18 and Universities; she currently holds seats on the boards of a
19 variety of organizations, among them the Chamber Orchestra of San
20 Antonio, the United Way of San Antonio, Southwest General Hospital,
21 and the Texas-Israel Chamber of Commerce; and

22 WHEREAS, Dr. Ferrier is the recipient of numerous accolades,
23 including a 2011 Golden Deeds Award from the Administrative
24 Leadership Institute, a 2010 Lifetime Achievement Award from the
25 San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and a 2003 Hispanic
26 Heritage Award from the Department of Labor; in 1999, she was
27 selected as the first distinguished visiting professor for the

1 doctoral program of the Center for Leadership Studies at Our Lady of
2 the Lake University; and

3 WHEREAS, Dr. Maria Ferrier has rendered outstanding service
4 to A&M--San Antonio, and her vision and acumen are certain to be of
5 tremendous value as the institution continues to build on its
6 record of excellence; now, therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
8 Legislature hereby commend Dr. Maria Hernandez Ferrier on her
9 contributions to Texas A&M University--San Antonio and extend to
10 her sincere best wishes for continued success; and, be it further

11 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
12 prepared for Dr. Ferrier as an expression of high regard by the
13 Texas House of Representatives.