

By: Rose

H.R. No. 1879

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A pioneering physician, Dr. Ruben Amarasingham has
2 made extraordinary contributions to health care through his work as
3 head of the Parkland Center for Clinical Innovation in Dallas; and

4 WHEREAS, Dr. Amarasingham joined Parkland Hospital in 2002 as
5 an attending physician in the Community Oriented Primary Care
6 System, where he served as medical director and associate chief of
7 medicine for Medicine Services; in 2008, he founded and directed
8 the hospital's Center for Clinical Innovation, which led to the
9 launch of the Parkland Center for Clinical Innovation, a nonprofit
10 research and development corporation that he oversees as president
11 and chief executive officer; and

12 WHEREAS, At PCCI, clinicians work to predict patients' risks
13 in developing health problems; PIECES, a groundbreaking software
14 system coinvented by Dr. Amarasingham, enables the center's staff
15 to analyze electronic health records and use predictive models to
16 anticipate adverse effects; the software assists physicians,
17 nurses, and administrators in making complex decisions by flagging
18 patients susceptible to conditions such as diabetes, pneumonia,
19 heart attack, and sepsis; and

20 WHEREAS, With financial support from the Commonwealth Fund,
21 the National Institutes of Health, and the Gordon and Betty Moore
22 Foundation, among other sources, PCCI is developing one of the
23 nation's first information exchanges for physicians, case
24 managers, and social service organizations; this electronic

1 platform enables health care providers to better understand how
2 their patients' social conditions may affect their health, which is
3 particularly vital for underserved patients who often move back and
4 forth between hospitals, clinics, and community health
5 organizations; and

6 WHEREAS, Dr. Amarasingham's efforts to re-engineer patient
7 flow in the Parkland Emergency Department, the 14th busiest in the
8 U.S., have led to significant reductions in time-to-admission
9 orders; furthermore, by using his risk prediction model, Dr.
10 Amarasingham cut 30-day readmissions for Medicare patients with
11 heart failure by 31 percent; the subject of a comprehensive review
12 by the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, Dr.
13 Amarasingham's model was found to be one of the most successful of
14 more than 7,000 systems in identifying patients at high risk for
15 readmission; and

16 WHEREAS, A graduate of The University of Texas Southwestern
17 Medical Center, Dr. Amarasingham completed a postdoctoral
18 fellowship and a master's degree in business administration at
19 Johns Hopkins University; the recipient of numerous awards, he was
20 designated a Health Care Hero of Dallas by the *Dallas Business*
21 *Journal*, and UT Southwestern named him a Bryan Williams Scholar for
22 Academic Excellence; in 2012, Dr. Amarasingham was one of 10 health
23 care professionals chosen from a pool of 850 candidates to receive
24 the inaugural Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Young Leader Award;
25 and

26 WHEREAS, Dr. Ruben Amarasingham has advanced the use of
27 health information technology as a vital tool for improving the

1 quality and efficiency of medical care, and he is indeed deserving
2 of recognition for his impressive record of service; now,
3 therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
5 Legislature hereby honor Dr. Ruben Amarasingham for his
6 professional achievements and extend to him sincere best wishes for
7 continued success; and, be it further

8 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
9 prepared for Dr. Amarasingham as an expression of high regard by the
10 Texas House of Representatives.