

By: Alonzo

H.R. No. 80

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 soon make up a
3 majority of the state's population; as a result, more certified
4 bilingual teachers are needed, and a program at the University of
5 North Texas is wisely addressing that need; and

6 WHEREAS, In collaboration with the Texas Higher Education
7 Coordinating Board, UNT is offering the Roberto R. Alonzo
8 Bilingual/ESL Education Scholars Program to provide scholarships
9 as incentives for students to pursue certification programs in
10 bilingual or ESL education; covering tuition and fees, the
11 scholarships are available to junior and senior undergraduate and
12 postbaccalaureate students at UNT; and

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

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

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1 state by attending to the needs of the growing population of
2 Spanish-speaking schoolchildren; now, therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
4 Legislature hereby honor participants in the University of North
5 Texas Roberto R. Alonzo Bilingual/ESL Education Scholars Program
6 for 2015 and commend them for their commitment and dedication to the
7 children of Texas.