

By: Davis of Dallas

H.R. No. 1719

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Dallas County Health and Human Services deserves
2 special recognition for its performance during the nation's first
3 Ebola outbreak in October 2014; and

4 WHEREAS, Before the crisis, DCHHS had prepared thoroughly for
5 such an incident; the agency had previously dealt with health
6 emergencies caused by West Nile virus, the H1N1 virus, and
7 tuberculosis, and it had conducted routine drills in anticipation
8 of other major illness outbreaks; and

9 WHEREAS, Once a case of Ebola was confirmed in Dallas, the
10 agency's personnel undertook numerous tasks to control the crisis,
11 among them clinical assessments, lab testing, contact tracing,
12 public education, and resource support; nurses in the Communicable
13 Disease Division monitored passengers who had traveled on the same
14 flights as an Ebola patient, and DCHHS employees fielded calls from
15 concerned residents and inquiries from as far away as Bahrain; in
16 addition, the agency quickly provided translations of fact sheets
17 in 10 languages to ensure that area residents had access to crucial
18 information; and

19 WHEREAS, Throughout the month of October, DCHHS employees
20 worked around the clock to identify and monitor the contacts of new
21 Ebola cases; the county was deemed free of Ebola on November 7,
22 2014, but while DCHHS returned to normal operations, it continued
23 its efforts to prevent another outbreak, monitoring more than 30
24 individuals who had traveled from West Africa; and

1 WHEREAS, The staff of Dallas County Health and Human Services
2 demonstrated skill, professionalism, and dedication during a
3 frightening medical crisis, and its proven ability to protect
4 public health is a source of tremendous reassurance to area
5 citizens; now, therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
7 Legislature hereby commend Dallas County Health and Human Services
8 for its response to the October 2014 Ebola outbreak and extend to
9 all members of the staff sincere best wishes for continued success
10 in their vital endeavors; and, be it further

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