

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 1041

**WHEREAS,** The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to recognize William Powers Jr., who is retiring as the 28th president of The University of Texas at Austin on June 2, 2015; and

**WHEREAS,** Bill Powers is one of the nation's leading legal scholars and a recipient of the Fleming Memorial Prize for Torts Scholarship; he began his career at the university as a law professor in 1977; he went on to become dean of the law school, and due to his commitment to recruiting a diverse student body, the law school experienced a significant increase in enrollment of minority students during his tenure; and

**WHEREAS,** Mr. Powers was named president of the university in 2006 and immediately embarked on a multifaceted effort to promote the institution's research mission and strengthen its undergraduate academic program; the students were first among his priorities, and he reformed the curriculum by establishing rigorous Signature Courses for freshmen and served as an instructor of one of these courses throughout his presidency; his student-success initiatives, which included a Course Transformation project and a focus on timely graduation, gained national recognition and were spotlighted on the cover of the *New York Times Magazine*; and

**WHEREAS,** His invaluable contributions to the university have included his efforts to help establish the Dell Medical School, the first medical school in the United States to be built at an existing tier-one university in more than three decades,

and his role in helping to launch the construction of a \$310 million Engineering Education and Research Center; he is currently concluding a \$3.1 billion capital fund-raising campaign, the largest fund-raiser in the history of Texas higher education; and

**WHEREAS**, Bill Powers is a champion of education who has focused on making the university the best public research university in the nation, and he has worked diligently to help the institution rise to its fullest potential; The University of Texas and the field of higher education have greatly benefited from his exceptional leadership; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 84th Legislature, hereby commend William Powers Jr. on his outstanding service as president of The University of Texas at Austin and extend to him best wishes for the future; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for him as an expression of highest esteem from the Texas Senate.

Watson

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the  
above Resolution was adopted by  
the Senate on May 30, 2015.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate