

By: Coleman

H.R. No. 1164

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The United Health Foundation has awarded a \$2  
2 million partnership grant to the University of Houston to support  
3 obesity prevention, nutrition education, and improved access to  
4 healthy foods; and

5           WHEREAS, According to the annual State of Obesity report,  
6 Texas ranks 10th in the nation, with more than 32 percent of  
7 residents having a body mass index of 30 or higher, up from 21.7  
8 percent in 2000; obesity-related diseases such as heart disease and  
9 arthritis are alarmingly prevalent in the state, and nearly 30  
10 percent of the population suffers from hypertension, while more  
11 than 11 percent has been diagnosed with diabetes; and

12           WHEREAS, The foundation and the university are partnering in  
13 the Preventing and Treating Obesity in Underserved Communities in  
14 Houston initiative, or TOUCH, which is designed to benefit  
15 residents of the Third Ward and East End, communities that include a  
16 large percentage of African Americans and Hispanics; both  
17 populations experience high rates of obesity and related illnesses;  
18 and

19           WHEREAS, With the goal of assisting 5,000 residents over the  
20 next three years, TOUCH will bring together an integrated network,  
21 including UH researchers, community and faith-based organizations,  
22 schools, primary care clinics, local businesses, and governmental  
23 entities; the program is envisioned as a future model for improving  
24 and maintaining healthy lifestyle practices across Houston and

1 beyond; and

2           WHEREAS, This generous partnership grant represents a  
3 significant investment in the health and well-being of Houston  
4 residents and in the vitality of that community; now, therefore, be  
5 it

6           RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas  
7 Legislature hereby honor the United Health Foundation for its TOUCH  
8 partnership grant to the University of Houston and extend to all  
9 those involved in the initiative sincere best wishes for the  
10 future; and, be it further

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