

By: Howard

H.R. No. 489

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Dr. Raymund A. Paredes is concluding an outstanding
2 15-year tenure as Texas commissioner of higher education on August
3 31, 2019; and

4 WHEREAS, Dr. Paredes is an alumnus of The University of Texas
5 at Austin, where he earned a bachelor's degree in English and a
6 doctoral degree in American civilization, and the University of
7 Southern California, where he earned a master's degree in American
8 studies; and

9 WHEREAS, Dr. Paredes joined the Texas Higher Education
10 Coordinating Board as commissioner of higher education in July
11 2004; and

12 WHEREAS, Dr. Paredes has a long and broad range of experience
13 in public higher education; he served for 30 years as a professor of
14 English at the University of California, Los Angeles, and he also
15 served as department chair, dean, vice chancellor, and special
16 assistant to the president of the University of California System;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, In his role as commissioner of higher education,
19 Dr. Paredes serves as the chief executive officer for the
20 coordinating board and manages staff and resources to achieve the
21 goals for Texas higher education as established by the board, the
22 governor, and the Texas legislature; and

23 WHEREAS, Dr. Paredes tirelessly advocates for the importance
24 of higher education in maintaining economic competitiveness and

1 quality of life in Texas; and

2 WHEREAS, Dr. Paredes has had national influence on higher
3 education by effectively serving on the boards of various national
4 organizations, such as the American Association of Colleges and
5 Universities, the College Board, and the Education Commission of
6 the States, and he is the longest-serving current member of the
7 State Higher Education Executive Officers, the national
8 association of the chief executives of statewide governing, policy,
9 and coordinating boards of postsecondary education; and

10 WHEREAS, Dr. Paredes has worked effectively with
11 institutions of higher education, the legislature, the governor's
12 office, the business community, and primary school and secondary
13 school educational leaders to develop and implement higher
14 education policies that have improved student access and success,
15 raised educational excellence, and promoted efficient use of state
16 resources; and

17 WHEREAS, Dr. Paredes has focused on the importance of both
18 increasing access to postsecondary education and helping students
19 complete their certificates and degrees, and this has led to Texas
20 dramatically exceeding the student completion goal of the state's
21 previous higher education plan, Closing the Gaps by 2015; and

22 WHEREAS, Dr. Paredes has served as the primary advocate for
23 60x30TX, the state's current higher education plan, and he has
24 consistently sought to expand public support for the plan and
25 identified and implemented strategies and practices to achieve its
26 goals; and

27 WHEREAS, Dr. Paredes adheres to the highest standards of

1 integrity and ethical behavior and is an educational leader of
2 passion and vision who is fully committed to expanding educational
3 opportunity and success to Texans of all backgrounds; and

4 WHEREAS, His many accomplishments as commissioner of higher
5 education include the reinvention of developmental education and
6 the implementation of an outcomes-based funding model for two-year
7 colleges that focuses on student success; he also worked to
8 establish the tri-agency partnership under Governor Greg Abbott
9 that includes the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, the
10 Texas Education Agency, and the Texas Workforce Commission; and

11 WHEREAS, Dr. Paredes came from a family of limited means
12 where the number-one priority was always education, and due to his
13 upbringing, he has been passionate his entire adult life about
14 extending educational opportunity to children from all
15 backgrounds; and

16 WHEREAS, Dr. Paredes has advocated tirelessly for increased
17 funding for, and efficiencies in, the TEXAS Grant program, the
18 state's largest need-plus-merit grant program, which has grown by
19 142 percent since 2004; and

20 WHEREAS, Dr. Paredes has also promoted other models for
21 financial aid, such as expanded work-study and paid internships, to
22 help the state achieve the marketable skills and student debt goals
23 of 60x30TX; and

24 WHEREAS, Dr. Paredes has spearheaded the growth of the Texas
25 Affordable Baccalaureate to make college more affordable to
26 students by securing private grants to support the start-up of
27 these programs; as a result of his efforts, Texas now has 10

1 institutions participating in this program; now, therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas
3 Legislature hereby recognize Dr. Raymund A. Paredes for his 15-year
4 tenure as Texas commissioner of higher education and extend to him
5 sincere best wishes for continued success as he embarks on the next
6 chapter of his life; and, be it further

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