WHEREAS, Michael Maples retired as deputy executive commissioner for the Health and Specialty Care System at the Texas Health and Human Services Commission in June 2021, drawing to a close an outstanding career in public service that spanned nearly three decades; and

WHEREAS, Mike Maples earned his bachelor's degree in psychology from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi and his master's degree in human services from St. Edward's University; after working briefly in the private sector, he began his career in public service as a unit behavior therapy program director at the Corpus Christi State School in 1992; and

WHEREAS, Over the course of his exemplary 29-year tenure with the State of Texas, Commissioner Maples held leadership positions with a number of health agencies; as assistant deputy commissioner for the Department of State Health Services, he oversaw the Office of Academic Affairs, the Center for Health Statistics, the Center for Health Policy and Performance, the Vital Statistics Section, the Office of Border Services, and the state hospitals; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Maples helped found the Health and Specialty Care System, and as deputy executive commissioner for the system, he was responsible for 10 state hospitals and 13 state supported living centers across Texas; he worked tirelessly to bring mental health and substance abuse services to communities across the state and helped establish Texas as a leader in forensic
inpatient mental health services; his efforts to modernize and expand the state's psychiatric hospitals resulted in the construction of two new hospitals, with a third in the planning stages for the Dallas-Fort Worth area; and

WHEREAS, In 2020 and 2021, Commissioner Maples worked nearly around the clock to address the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic; throughout his career, he has been an indispensable source of expertise on mental health and intellectual and developmental disability for members of the legislature and other officials; a leader in his field, he has served as president of the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors, and he has also been active with several state and national boards and associations; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his many professional achievements, Mr. Maples has found time to serve his community as a volunteer firefighter and emergency medical technician; in all his endeavors, he has benefited from the love and support of his wife, Connie Maples, and his three children, Garrett, Taylor, and Carley; and

WHEREAS, Mike Maples has made a positive and lasting difference in the lives of countless Texans, and he may indeed reflect with pride on a career well spent as he embarks upon the next exciting chapter of his life; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas Legislature, 2nd Called Session, hereby congratulate Michael Maples on his retirement from the Texas Health and Human Services Commission and commend him for his many years of dedicated service; and, be it further
RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be prepared for Mr. Maples as an expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.