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By:  Raney H.R. No. 720

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, The administration, faculty, staff, and students of the Texas A&M Health Science Center and the Texas A&M School of Public Health have distinguished themselves in their response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including the efforts they have undertaken to track and combat the disease, to measure its impact on health care systems, and to provide guidance to local and state authorities on safety issues; and

WHEREAS, Over the past year, the Texas A&M Health Science Center has played a key role in the statewide fight against COVID-19 through such measures as therapeutic research, contact tracing and investigation, testing, modeling and spread prediction, telemedicine services, emergency dental care, and vaccine development and distribution; and

WHEREAS, Faculty from the Texas A&M School of Public Health directed the activities of the university's COVID Investigation Operations Center, an interagency partnership between the Texas A&M Health Science Center and the Brazos County Health Department designed to select, train, and manage contact tracers, case investigators, and epidemiologists in order to better monitor the situation on campus; in addition, faculty members shared vital information about the pandemic with the public through the media, and they worked with students to analyze previous disaster responses, develop reports on their findings, and provide local and state decision makers with weekly updates and predictions about the trajectory of the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, As volunteers for the Department of State Health Services Vulnerable Population Task Force, students at the School of Public Health were responsible for gathering and analyzing data on populations at highest risk of contracting COVID-19, including nursing home residents and inmates; they were also charged with communicating their data in a format easily understood by various audiences; and

WHEREAS, The Texas A&M Health Science Center and the Texas A&M School of Public Health performed admirable work to help our state meet the challenges posed by a rapidly evolving health crisis, and all those who were involved with these efforts are deserving of our lasting gratitude for their ingenuity, resilience, and commitment to protecting public health in and beyond their community; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas Legislature hereby commend the administration, faculty, staff, and students of the Texas A&M Health Science Center and the Texas A&M School of Public Health for their service to the state during the COVID-19 pandemic and extend to them sincere best wishes for continued success with their important work; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be prepared for each institution as an expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.