By:  A. Johnson of Harris H.R. No. 1125

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, Baylor College of Medicine has undertaken extraordinary efforts to track and measure the impact of the virus, to research and develop treatments and vaccines, and to provide the public with accurate and up-to-date information as the crisis has progressed; and

WHEREAS, After the first case of COVID-19 was detected in the United States on January 20, 2020, experts from Baylor College of Medicine were invited by national and international media to share their expertise; during the weeks that followed, the college's administrators and faculty were sought out for guidance by city and county officials, and the institution's leadership role continued to grow as the scope and severity of the pandemic increased; Baylor experts have since made appearances on a host of major television networks and have been featured in numerous print publications, and the college has published information guides about how to safely operate schools and businesses; and

WHEREAS, Since Baylor researchers began focusing their attention on the novel coronavirus, they have uncovered important findings about the transmission of the virus, about the characteristics of COVID-19, and about treatments for patients with severe illness; they have submitted more than 140 applications for COVID-19-related research studies, 25 of which were approved treatment trials; in July 2020, the college was selected as one of the sites for the Moderna vaccine's Phase 3 clinical trial, and Baylor has also participated in trials for the Novavax and Pfizer-BioNTech vaccines and in the development of a vaccine candidate that is currently undergoing trials in India; and

WHEREAS, In addition to pursuing research with global implications, Baylor has partnered with local government agencies to contain the spread of the virus; researchers with the college have joined with Houston and Harris County public health departments to conduct seroprevalence studies and wastewater testing and to administer diagnostic tests to the public; to date, Baylor has provided over 31,000 COVID-19 tests and administered nearly 30,000 vaccines; and

WHEREAS, Baylor College of Medicine faculty and researchers have answered the call to action during a complex and ever-evolving global health crisis, and they are deserving of our lasting gratitude for their hard work, their ingenuity, and their earnest commitment to public health; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas Legislature hereby honor Baylor College of Medicine for its service during the COVID-19 pandemic and extend sincere gratitude to all those affiliated with the institution for their important work; and, be it further

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