H.R. No. 1995

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at Amarillo has played an integral role in the global campaign to advance understanding of the disease, to develop lifesaving treatments and therapies, and to provide essential medical care and vaccination services to the Amarillo community; and

WHEREAS, In April 2020, TTUHSC was selected to be part of a U.S. government-sponsored, FDA-approved study conducted by Mayo Clinic to evaluate the use of convalescent plasma in treating patients with severe COVID-19; working in partnership with other institutions, the health sciences center swiftly mobilized to implement the project, and its participation provided patients in Amarillo with a treatment option that was difficult to attain at the time; and

WHEREAS, Continuing to investigate the viability of new methods of treating COVID-19, TTUHSC entered into an agreement with Amarillo's PharmaTex Research to assist in a clinical trial of Regeneron's novel antiviral antibody cocktail in late summer of 2020; at the time, the health sciences center was one of only 150 sites internationally and the only location in West Texas with access to the medications; and

WHEREAS, In addition to facilitating studies and clinical trials, TTUHSC has helped increase Texas' testing capacity by producing viral transport media, a critical component of COVID-19 tests; at its peak, the health sciences center was generating between 15,000 and 20,000 vials of VTM per week, for a total of more than 450,000 vials, and the university went on to be recognized for its production of VTM in *The Governor's Report to Open Texas* publication issued by Governor Greg Abbott; the VTM project was led by a team from the TTUHSC Jerry H. Hodge School of Pharmacy and the School of Medicine, and the schools shared information about their effective methods with other universities and laboratories across the state; and

WHEREAS, Another important initiative carried out by TTUHSC was the establishment of the Amarillo Center for Excellence for COVID-19 Research & Pandemics, which encompasses a range of efforts that are focused on the goal of predicting and preparing for future pandemics; special thanks is also owed to the many TTUHSC medical and pharmaceutical faculty members who have been on the front lines providing high-quality care to patients in area medical centers; in addition, the health sciences center has administered a total of more than 11,000 COVID-19 vaccinations on the Amarillo campus; and

WHEREAS, The faculty, research staff, students, support staff, and administration of the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at Amarillo have lent their time, expertise, and resources to expedite critical research and treatment in the world's battle against COVID-19, and they are deserving of our lasting gratitude for their tireless dedication to this endeavor; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas Legislature hereby commend the faculty, research staff, students, support staff, and administration of the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at Amarillo for their exceptional contributions in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and extend to all those associated with the effort sincere best wishes for continued success in their important work; and, be it further

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

Price

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 1995 was adopted by the House on May 31, 2021, by a non-record vote.

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Chief Clerk of the House