

By: A. Johnson of Harris

H.R. No. 1125

R E S O L U T I O N

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

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

17           WHEREAS, Since Baylor researchers began focusing their  
18 attention on the novel coronavirus, they have uncovered important  
19 findings about the transmission of the virus, about the  
20 characteristics of COVID-19, and about treatments for patients with  
21 severe illness; they have submitted more than 140 applications for  
22 COVID-19-related research studies, 25 of which were approved  
23 treatment trials; in July 2020, the college was selected as one of  
24 the sites for the Moderna vaccine's Phase 3 clinical trial, and

1 Baylor has also participated in trials for the Novavax and  
2 Pfizer-BioNTech vaccines and in the development of a vaccine  
3 candidate that is currently undergoing trials in India; and

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

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

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

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