

By: Price

H.R. No. 1393

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, During the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic,
2 the Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory, the
3 Amarillo Pathology Group, LLP, and APG's Physicians Preferred
4 Laboratory, Ltd., came together to address the urgent community
5 need for accurate and timely COVID-19 testing; and

6 WHEREAS, The demand for diagnostic testing was especially
7 acute in March 2020 and the months that followed, as communities
8 worked to track and assess the spread of the novel coronavirus; at
9 that time, few public health laboratories were equipped to process
10 the number of tests that were being requested, which led to the
11 formation of a unique partnership between the Texas A&M Veterinary
12 Medical Diagnostic Laboratory (TVMDL) and St. Joseph Health;
13 TVMDL, which routinely tests herds and flocks of animals for a
14 variety of diseases, lent its high-throughput equipment and
15 laboratory space to St. Joseph Health staff, allowing them to begin
16 performing a higher volume of PCR tests at its College Station
17 laboratory in late April 2020; and

18 WHEREAS, Knowing that the need for testing was also critical
19 in the Texas Panhandle, TVMDL went on to partner with the Amarillo
20 Pathology Group's Physicians Preferred Laboratory (APG-PPL) to
21 provide this same service at its Amarillo laboratory; through this
22 partnership, APG-PPL was able to perform up to 600 COVID-19 tests
23 each day and to deliver results to patients from 24-48 hours after
24 specimens were collected; the laboratory proved to be a crucial

1 asset to the region at this challenging time, and by fulfilling the
2 need for testing during periods of high community spread, it helped
3 local governments and businesses to make informed policy decisions;
4 in February 2021, TVMDL and APG-PPL were recognized with Texas A&M
5 AgriLife's Partnership Award; and

6 WHEREAS, A number of individuals were instrumental in
7 establishing the initial partnership between TVMDL and APG-PPL,
8 including TVMDL's director Dr. Bruce Akey and associate agency
9 director Dr. Amy Swinford and APG-PPL's medical director
10 Dr. Robert Todd II; also vital to this undertaking were APG-PPL
11 administrators who helped secure federal approval for the clinic,
12 Charlyn Snow and Heidi Dorman, as well as the Clinical Laboratory
13 Improvements Amendment (CLIA) medical director, Dr. Andrew Hoot;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Other TVMDL professionals, Dr. Kiril Dimitrov,
16 Dr. Pam Ferro, Dr. Megan Schroeder, and Dr. Owais Khan, handled
17 such responsibilities as ensuring the accuracy of test results and
18 securing testing supplies; TVMDL employees Jonatan Sanchez-Gama
19 and Nicholas Monday trained and assisted APG-PPL staff on the use of
20 the equipment, while APG-PPL employees Cliff George, Chris Kelly,
21 Katera Padilla, and Ashley Tarrant were tasked with delivering
22 human samples to the lab and performing tests; finally, a great deal
23 of appreciation is owed to Texas A&M AgriLife vice chancellors
24 Dr. Patrick J. Stover and Joe Cox and to Sandra Talton, legislative
25 director in the office of State Representative Four Price, for
26 their tremendous contributions; and

27 WHEREAS, The success of this collaboration is a credit to the

1 expertise, ingenuity, and shared commitment to service
2 demonstrated by all those involved in the partnership, and they are
3 indeed deserving of heartfelt praise for their tireless efforts;
4 now, therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas
6 Legislature hereby commend the Texas A&M Veterinary Medical
7 Diagnostic Laboratory, the Amarillo Pathology Group, LLP, and APG's
8 Physicians Preferred Laboratory, Ltd., for their work to ensure
9 timely, accurate COVID-19 testing to the Texas Panhandle at the
10 height of the pandemic and extend to their personnel sincere best
11 wishes for the future; and, be it further

12 RESOLVED, That official copies of this resolution be prepared
13 for the organizations as an expression of high regard by the Texas
14 House of Representatives.