

By: Price

H.R. No. 1995

R E S O L U T I O N

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

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

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

22 WHEREAS, In addition to facilitating studies and clinical
23 trials, TTUHSC has helped increase Texas' testing capacity by
24 producing viral transport media, a critical component of COVID-19

1 tests; at its peak, the health sciences center was generating
2 between 15,000 and 20,000 vials of VTM per week, for a total of more
3 than 450,000 vials, and the university went on to be recognized for
4 its production of VTM in *The Governor's Report to Open Texas*
5 publication issued by Governor Greg Abbott; the VTM project was led
6 by a team from the TTUHSC Jerry H. Hodge School of Pharmacy and the
7 School of Medicine, and the schools shared information about their
8 effective methods with other universities and laboratories across
9 the state; and

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

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

26 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas
27 Legislature hereby commend the faculty, research staff, students,

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1 support staff, and administration of the Texas Tech University
2 Health Sciences Center at Amarillo for their exceptional
3 contributions in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and extend to
4 all those associated with the effort sincere best wishes for
5 continued success in their important work; and, be it further

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