

By: Jones of Harris

H.R. No. 223

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Students, faculty, staff, alumni, administrators,
2 and members of the board of regents from the University of Houston
3 are visiting Austin on February 11, 2025, to participate in
4 University of Houston Day at the State Capitol; and

5 WHEREAS, The Tier One university is located in the nation's
6 fourth-largest city, and it serves students at instructional sites
7 in Sugar Land and Katy as well as at the UH Technology Bridge; the
8 institution is located within a region that is home to a quarter of
9 the state's population and that generates nearly a third of the
10 state's gross product; the student body, numbering more than
11 46,600, including many first-generation college students, mirrors
12 the rich cultural tapestry of Houston; and

13 WHEREAS, Each year, the university awards over 11,000 degrees
14 in 281 undergraduate and graduate academic programs; it now counts
15 more than 332,900 alumni, many of whom stay in Texas, where they
16 contribute to the success of our communities and state; and

17 WHEREAS, In the 17th year under the leadership of president
18 Renu Khator, the University of Houston has set its sights on being
19 ranked among our country's top 50 public universities, which will
20 be achieved as a result of rapidly improving graduation rates, the
21 ability to improve the social mobility of its students, and the
22 recognition of the research excellence of its faculty; and

23 WHEREAS, The Tilman J. Fertitta Family College of Medicine,
24 established after the passage of H.B. 826 during the 86th Texas

1 Legislative Session, was founded on a social mission to improve
2 health in underserved communities in Houston and across Texas; the
3 college emphasizes the importance primary care plays in the health
4 of all Texans, especially in urban and rural communities, and in
5 four years, it has already graduated its first class of doctors and
6 has a current enrollment of 210 students; and

7 WHEREAS, The University of Houston is helping to improve the
8 health of Texans, with one in four UH students enrolled in a
9 health-related program; the university provides 450,000 hours of
10 patient care in clinical and community settings annually in a
11 variety of fields across Texas, and 85 percent of its graduates in
12 health-related fields are employed in Texas; and

13 WHEREAS, The university is home to 12 nationally funded
14 research centers and 27 university research centers and institutes,
15 and it has spent over \$230 million in research expenditures
16 annually, mainly in the critical areas of cyber- and national
17 security, drug discovery and development, sustainable communities
18 and infrastructure, and accessible health care; and

19 WHEREAS, The University of Houston athletics competes in 17
20 different sports with more than 400 student-athletes; several of
21 the athletic teams have represented the university on the national
22 stage, including the Cougar men's basketball team led by head coach
23 Kelvin Sampson that has advanced to five NCAA Sweet Sixteen
24 tournaments in a row; following in the footsteps of the previous
25 year's team, the 2023-2024 team earned a No. 1 ranking in the
26 country, generating nationwide support and excitement similar to
27 the Phi Slama Jama era in the early 1980s; beginning in the summer

1 of 2023, Houston now competes in a Power 5 conference after its
2 acceptance to join the Big 12 Conference; and

3 WHEREAS, For nearly a century, the University of Houston has
4 contributed significantly to creating generation after generation
5 of productive and responsible citizens; now, therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 89th Texas
7 Legislature hereby recognize February 11, 2025, as University of
8 Houston Day at the State Capitol and extend to all participants
9 sincere best wishes for an informative and enjoyable visit.