

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 124

By Ramsey

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate the University of Tennessee Health Science Center upon the celebration of its 100th anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is most appropriate that the members of this General Assembly honor those extraordinary institutions of higher learning that promote health and wellness in a manner that has garnered universal acclaim; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable institution is the University of Tennessee Health Science Center, which is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year; and

WHEREAS, after the Civil War and during the decades leading up to 1911, medical schools were abundant but true education was scarce, as most medical schools were privately-owned and were used primarily as a method of generating revenue for the physicians who owned them, investing minimally in their students' education; and

WHEREAS, only fifteen units of a high school education were required to attend the private medical schools, and the private owners' inadequate investments in proper facilities, equipment, and books resulted in poorly-trained students who earned medical degrees but held no real knowledge of medicine or its practices; and

WHEREAS, the problem worsened as universities lacking their own medical schools, such as the University of Tennessee, began lending their names to those institutions without setting admission, curriculum, or faculty requirements, further ensuring that many of the medical degrees earned during that laissez-faire era were without educational merit; and

WHEREAS, as the demand increased to reform the privately-owned schools, critics argued that they should be consolidated into one well-funded institution operated by Vanderbilt University but, later that year, the trustees of the University of Nashville Medical Department

(which had been affiliated with Vanderbilt) voted to transfer their school's books, equipment, and operating authority to the University of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, in August 1911, five railroad cars arrived in Memphis, carrying fifty tons of well-used medical and hospital equipment from two privately-owned Nashville medical schools which had agreed to become part of a new, state-operated academic institution in the Bluff City; and

WHEREAS, workers placed the equipment in a four-story building donated by the College of Physicians and Surgeons, another private institution, and, weeks later, the building was reopened as Lindsley Hall and accommodated three small colleges of medicine, dentistry, and pharmacy, with a small full-time staff and a handful of students; and

WHEREAS, the creation of the three colleges signified two important milestones for the University of Tennessee: for the first time, the State's university was actively engaged in real medical education and, for the first time, it truly became a statewide institution; and

WHEREAS, the college continued to grow in the years that followed, but the school's facilities and resources were deemed meager at best, using equipment that was considered antiquated even for the standards of the time; and

WHEREAS, despite its humble beginnings, the school prospered and, over the next century, grew into the exceptional academic institution it is today, the University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC); and

WHEREAS, UTHSC has three major campuses in Memphis, Knoxville, and Chattanooga, and encompasses six colleges: the College of Allied Health Sciences, the College of Dentistry, the College of Graduate Health Sciences, the College of Medicine, the College of Nursing, and the College of Pharmacy; and

WHEREAS, the Health Science Center has several areas of emphasis and has an extensive network of facilities and programs for specialized and general research, including the Cancer Research Building, the Clinical and Translational Science Institute, the Hamilton Eye Institute, the Regional Biocontainment Laboratory, and the Telehealth Network, with UTHSC's faculty and staff receiving nearly \$100 million in research funding in 2010; and

WHEREAS, in its centennial year, UTHSC has expanded beyond anything its earliest champions could have dared to imagine, setting extraordinary precedents and breaking medical barriers; and

WHEREAS, this year, the Health Science Center will provide thousands of medically underserved, rural Tennesseans with face-to-face access to specialty health care services, thanks to UTHSC's telehealth program; and

WHEREAS, through technological capabilities, the Hamilton Eye Institute, which is rated among the nation's ten best for clinical care, is training physicians in Central America; and

WHEREAS, thanks to a first-of-its-kind psychology resident program, trauma victims at the UT Medical Center in Knoxville can receive holistic care for both emotional and physical injuries; and

WHEREAS, since the opening of the Cancer Research Building in 2007, UTHSC has earned growing recognition for cancer research, including an international reputation in the area of pediatric leukemias; and

WHEREAS, through the Clinical and Translational Science Institute, UTHSC researchers are reducing the time between laboratory discoveries and the availability of new treatments at the patient's bedside; and

WHEREAS, since 2009, the Health Science Center has housed a sophisticated Regional Biocontainment Lab to enhance the nation's preparedness and emergency response capabilities against bioterrorism and to advance the fight against infectious diseases; and

WHEREAS, utilizing groundbreaking, original, and innovative techniques, the medical technology program in the College of Allied Health Sciences prepares students for careers in biotech and forensic labs; and

WHEREAS, the College of Dentistry's state-of-the-art Dental Simulation Center is the largest and most advanced pre-clinical lab of its type in the world; and

WHEREAS, the College of Nursing, consistently ranked among the nation's best, is the only place in the United States to offer a degree in forensic nursing; and

WHEREAS, in Memphis, UTHSC faculty members fully staff the Regional Medical Center and nearly all of Le Bonheur Children's Medical Center; and

WHEREAS, over the course of the last century, the University of Tennessee Health Science Center has positioned itself as a premiere institution for higher learning by offering an unprecedented and unparalleled medical education to thousands of students who, in turn, have improved their communities, state, and nation; and

WHEREAS, the health and well-being of every Tennessean is of paramount importance, and the people of this State are fortunate indeed to be served by the caring faculty, staff, and students of the University of Tennessee Health Science Center; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate the University of Tennessee Health Science Center for 100 years of dedicated service to the State of Tennessee. We commend its outstanding faculty and staff for their ongoing commitment to ensure the good health of their fellow citizens and extend to them our best wishes for every continued success and happiness in all their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.