

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 580

By Briggs

A RESOLUTION to recognize Anthony L. Spezia on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this General Assembly should honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their years of industry; and

WHEREAS, Anthony L. Spezia is one such estimable person who has served with distinction for the past sixteen years as the President and Chief Executive Officer of Covenant Health and has recently announced he will be taking his much-deserved retirement; and

WHEREAS, a native of St. Louis, Missouri, Anthony Spezia completed an undergraduate degree in business before joining Arthur Anderson & Company, where he provided business consulting and other services in multiple industries; and

WHEREAS, in 1979, he was recruited by a *Fortune 500* company as a senior operating officer for a major coal company headquartered in Detroit, Michigan. During his time in that position, he completed a successful business turnaround of the company and obtained his Master of Business Administration from Michigan State University, graduating first in his class; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Spezia relocated to Knoxville in 1991 when he accepted a position with Peninsula Healthcare, which later joined with the Fort Sanders Health System in 1995, and was named an executive of the organization when Fort Sanders became Covenant Health; and

WHEREAS, he was named president of Cariten/PHP, Covenant's managed care organization, in 1998, and led an extraordinary business turnaround of the organization, restoring profitability in three years; and

WHEREAS, named President and Chief Executive Officer of Covenant Health in 2000, Mr. Spezia, during his tenure, saw the company grow into a health system with twenty-two operating units, including ten hospitals, with over \$2 billion in assets, and more than 10,000 employees and affiliated physicians; and

WHEREAS, as a result of his exemplary leadership, Covenant Health is the largest healthcare provider and the largest private employer in East Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, a leader in healthcare policy, Anthony Spezia is a Fellow in the Healthcare Financial Management Association and American College of Healthcare Executives, a past chairman of the American Hospital Association's Health Systems Governing Council, and a board member of numerous other professional and community organizations; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Mr. Spezia is a recipient of Modern Healthcare's CEO IT Achievement Award and is a Fellow in the Health Ethics Trust, the highest individual designation for contributions in the areas of ethics and compliance; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Anthony Spezia has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his peers, his employees, and the citizens of the State of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor Anthony L. Spezia upon his illustrious career in business, thank him for his exemplary service as President and Chief Executive Officer of Covenant Health, and wish him much continued success and happiness during his retirement.

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