

1 HJR181  
2 212876-1  
3 By Representative Shedd  
4 RFD: Rules  
5 First Read: 07-APR-21

8 COMMENDING DR. WILL FERNIANY FOR OUTSTANDING  
9 PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT.

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11 WHEREAS, with great honor, we warmly extend highest  
12 commendations to Dr. Will Ferniany, for his distinguished  
13 service as Chief Executive Officer of The University of  
14 Alabama at Birmingham Health System; and

15 WHEREAS, after 13 years as the Chief Executive  
16 Officer of the UAB Health System, Dr. Ferniany will retire at  
17 the end of 2021; he became Chief Executive Officer in 2008; he  
18 has been a senior leader in health care since 1975, he is also  
19 the Chief Executive Officer of the new UAB Ascension St.  
20 Vincent's Alliance; in this role, Dr. Ferniany oversees a \$5  
21 billion, 11 hospital health system; and

22 WHEREAS, Dr. Ferniany earned a Bachelor's Degree  
23 from The University of Alabama and a Master's Degree and a  
24 Doctoral Degree in Health Care Administration from the  
25 University of Alabama at Birmingham; he embarked upon a long  
26 career in health care management, including serving as  
27 Associate Vice Chancellor and Chief Executive Officer of the

1 University of Mississippi Medical Center; also serving as Vice  
2 President, Chief Administrative Officer, and Senior Vice  
3 President of Professional Services of the University of  
4 Pennsylvania Health System; at the UAB Health System, he also  
5 has served in strategic planning and marketing development and  
6 as the Chief Executive Officer of the UAB Psychiatric Hospital  
7 and the Executive Administrator for the Department of  
8 Psychiatry; and

9 WHEREAS, since Dr. Ferniany stepped to the helm of  
10 leadership, the UAB Health System has experienced  
11 transformational changes; the Health System has grown from  
12 five hospitals to 11, with revenues expanding from \$2.3  
13 billion to more than \$5.8 billion today; the most gratifying  
14 of Dr. Ferniany's accomplishments is the engagement by the  
15 Health System to improve health care for Alabamians; to that  
16 end, Dr. Ferniany worked tirelessly in facilitating these  
17 improvements by actively engaging with and creating  
18 cooperative agreements with many Alabama health care  
19 facilities, developing an extensive telehealth system,  
20 supporting academic medicine and enhancing the school's  
21 ability to retain and recruit top physicians, coordinating  
22 alignments across the Health System organization, focusing on  
23 patient experience and measuring patient satisfaction,  
24 promoting diversity by creating leadership positions and  
25 promoting training, and committing to health equity; and

26 WHEREAS, Dr. Ferniany is the recipient of numerous  
27 regional and national accolades, including past chair of the

1 Alabama Hospital Association and the Council of Teaching  
2 Hospitals; and honors from the Association of American Medical  
3 Colleges, the University Health Consortium, Vizient, and the  
4 University of Miami Health System; and

5 WHEREAS, he has the utmost distinction of leading  
6 the Health System's rapid response and of supporting the  
7 community and the state during the COVID-19 pandemic; the  
8 Health System quickly and efficiently set up testing sites for  
9 the virus, developed new testing methods, served as a vaccine  
10 site, and administered more than 105,000 vaccines; and

11 WHEREAS, notably, the school will institute the Will  
12 Ferniany Academic Medicine Leadership Award in his honor, to  
13 be given to a health system executive who best demonstrates an  
14 ongoing commitment to the institution's academic mission;  
15 through the years, Dr. Ferniany has earned widespread  
16 admiration and respect for his dedication and exceptional  
17 abilities, and he is truly deserving of the significant honor  
18 bestowed upon him; now therefore,

19 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
20 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That Dr. Will Ferniany, is honored  
21 and commended, and this resolution is offered to him in  
22 highest tribute, as well as with deepest admiration and  
23 appreciation for his invaluable service and with sincere best  
24 wishes for continued happiness and success.