

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

COMMENDING DR. WILL FERNIANY FOR OUTSTANDING
PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT.

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

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

WHEREAS, Dr. Ferniany earned a Bachelor's Degree
from The University of Alabama and a Master's Degree and a
Doctoral Degree in Health Care Administration from the
University of Alabama at Birmingham; he embarked upon a long
career in health care management, including serving as
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.