

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

1
2 ENROLLED, House Joint Resolution,

3 COMMENDING DR. WILL FERNIANY FOR OUTSTANDING
4 PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT.

5
6 WHEREAS, with great honor, we warmly extend highest
7 commendations to Dr. Will Ferniany, for his distinguished
8 service as Chief Executive Officer of The University of
9 Alabama at Birmingham Health System; and

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

17 WHEREAS, Dr. Ferniany earned a Bachelor's Degree
18 from The University of Alabama and a Master's Degree and a
19 Doctoral Degree in Health Care Administration from the
20 University of Alabama at Birmingham; he embarked upon a long
21 career in health care management, including serving as
22 Associate Vice Chancellor and Chief Executive Officer of the
23 University of Mississippi Medical Center; also serving as Vice
24 President, Chief Administrative Officer, and Senior Vice
25 President of Professional Services of the University of

1 Pennsylvania Health System; at the UAB Health System, he also
2 has served in strategic planning and marketing development and
3 as the Chief Executive Officer of the UAB Psychiatric Hospital
4 and the Executive Administrator for the Department of
5 Psychiatry; and

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

23 WHEREAS, Dr. Ferniany is the recipient of numerous
24 regional and national accolades, including past chair of the
25 Alabama Hospital Association and the Council of Teaching

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

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

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

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

