

1 WHEREAS, there are more than 2,800 health care
2 professionals who function under the direction of Dr. Mathews,
3 providing for the health care needs of Florida's inmates and
4 handling 2.9 million health care encounters within the system
5 annually, and

6 WHEREAS, during Dr. Mathews' tenure, the health care
7 system of the Florida Department of Corrections has achieved
8 national recognition for the quality of health care delivered
9 to the inmate population and for its cost-effectiveness, and

10 WHEREAS, among Dr. Mathews' many other accomplishments
11 as Assistant Secretary for Health Services is the founding of
12 the Correctional Bioethics Committee in 1994, of which Dr.
13 Mathews has served as chairperson since its inception, and

14 WHEREAS, the Correctional Bioethics Committee, which
15 includes a majority of ethicists from outside the various
16 state correctional systems, considers issues of special
17 concern regarding treatment of the incarcerated population,
18 and

19 WHEREAS, under the direction of Dr. Mathews, the
20 Florida Department of Corrections has assured that treatment
21 of inmates with HIV and AIDS meets current community
22 standards, and

23 WHEREAS, among the efforts to this end are the ongoing
24 education of medical staff and inmates, a planned 120-bed
25 Special Care Unit for advanced or complicated AIDS cases, and
26 close affiliation with University of Miami AIDS researchers
27 and clinicians, and

28 WHEREAS, in 1997, the Assistant Secretary for Health
29 Services began offering carefully selected AIDS patients
30 access to new investigational drugs, under FDA-approved

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1 protocols, in cooperation with University of Miami AIDS
2 specialists, and

3 WHEREAS, in 1998, a miniresidency of correctional
4 health care providers rotating through the AIDS Special Care
5 Unit was begun, with faculty drawn from nationally recognized
6 AIDS experts, and funding provided by grant, at no cost to the
7 department, and

8 WHEREAS, Dr. Charles R. Mathews has assured that
9 up-to-date training in inmate medical care is provided to
10 physicians and other health care providers through regional
11 programs and statewide workshops, and

12 WHEREAS, also during Dr. Mathews' tenure, the 21-year
13 federal court supervision of the Florida Department of
14 Corrections was brought to a close in March 1993, and

15 WHEREAS, as Assistant Secretary for Health Services,
16 Dr. Charles R. Mathews is responsible for vast and
17 far-reaching improvements in the delivery of inmate medical
18 care in the State of Florida, improvements which serve as a
19 model for correctional systems throughout the nation, and

20 WHEREAS, it is fitting and appropriate that the
21 Legislature of the State of Florida recognize Dr. Charles R.
22 Mathews for his numerous contributions as Assistant Secretary
23 for Health Services, NOW, THEREFORE,

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25 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
26 Florida:

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28 That the House of Representatives of the State of
29 Florida hereby recognizes Dr. Charles R. Mathews for his
30 numerous contributions as Assistant Secretary for Health
31 Services of the Florida Department of Corrections.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution
2 be transmitted to Dr. Charles R. Mathews as a tangible token
3 of the sentiments expressed herein.
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