

HR 9023

2013

## 1 House Resolution

2 A resolution recognizing the Herbert Wertheim College  
3 of Medicine at Florida International University.

4  
5 WHEREAS, on March 23, 2006, the Board of Governors of the  
6 State University System approved the creation of a new medical  
7 school at Florida International University, which was  
8 established by the Legislature on May 5, 2006, and signed into  
9 law by Governor Jeb Bush on May 30, 2006, and

10 WHEREAS, after considering many outstanding applicants,  
11 Florida International University selected Dr. John A. Rock as  
12 the Founding Dean of the new medical school, and

13 WHEREAS, in 2007, Dean Rock recruited a team of experienced  
14 educators, consisting of Executive Associate Dean for Academic  
15 Affairs Joe Leigh Simpson, Executive Associate Dean for Clinical  
16 Affairs J. Patrick O'Leary, and Executive Associate Dean for  
17 Student Affairs Sanford M. Markham, to develop an operational  
18 plan for the new medical school, which was accepted by the  
19 Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) and given  
20 preliminary accreditation in February 2008, allowing the  
21 recruitment of medical students, and

22 WHEREAS, in May 2008, Benjamin León, Jr., and family  
23 generously donated \$10 million to establish the Benjamin León,  
24 Jr., Family Center for Geriatric Research and Education, and the  
25 medical school received its first class of students in 2009, and

26 WHEREAS, also in 2009, Dr. Herbert Wertheim donated \$20  
27 million to the medical school, which was named the Herbert  
28 Wertheim College of Medicine in his honor, and Dr. Wertheim was

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29 designated as Founding Chairman of the College of Medicine and  
30 Trustee Emeritus of Florida International University, and

31 WHEREAS, the medical school received provisional  
32 accreditation from LCME in 2011, and after its third assessment  
33 by the committee in 2012, the Herbert Wertheim College of

34 Medicine was awarded full accreditation on February 7, 2013, and

35 WHEREAS, on April 29, 2013, the Herbert Wertheim College of  
36 Medicine will proudly graduate its first class of physicians  
37 receiving a Doctor of Medicine degree, and

38 WHEREAS, the Green Family Foundation NeighborhoodHELP  
39 program, an innovative curriculum that serves as a model for new  
40 medical schools around the country, is recognized as the  
41 signature educational program of the College of Medicine for its  
42 unwavering commitment to serving the community and educating  
43 future physicians in improving the health and quality of life of  
44 all Floridians, and

45 WHEREAS, as part of the Green Family Foundation  
46 NeighborhoodHELP program, Florida International University's  
47 medical students are expertly trained in the nonbiological  
48 aspects of disease, including ethics, cultural competency,  
49 interdisciplinary teamwork, and the social determinants of  
50 health that affect disease and health care outcomes, and teams  
51 of the university's medical, nursing, social work, and law  
52 students identify and respond to critical health and social  
53 needs within medically underserved households in Miami-Dade  
54 County, and

55 WHEREAS, economic return alone cannot fully reflect the  
56 improved quality of life available to Florida's citizens as a

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57 | result of the invaluable contributions of the Herbert Wertheim  
58 | College of Medicine toward high-quality, comprehensive health  
59 | care, NOW, THEREFORE,  
60 |

61 | Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of  
62 | Florida:  
63 |

64 |       That Florida International University is commended and  
65 | congratulated for the outstanding accomplishments of the Herbert  
66 | Wertheim College of Medicine.

67 |       BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be  
68 | presented to Florida International University and to Dr. John A.  
69 | Rock, Dean of the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine, as a  
70 | tangible token of the sentiments expressed herein.