

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 32

BY REPRESENTATIVES FREEMAN AND BILLINGS

COMMENDATIONS: Commends Michael A. Fitts on his ten years as president of Tulane University

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend Michael A. Fitts for his ten years of service as president of Tulane University.

3 WHEREAS, Tulane University president, Michael A. Fitts, is marking his tenth year
4 as leader of Tulane University; Tulane is one of the nation's foremost research universities;
5 it is the ninth-oldest private university in the Association of American Universities and
6 includes the nation's twelfth-oldest law school, the nation's fifteenth-oldest medical school,
7 and one of only seven federally funded National Primate Research Centers in the country;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, under President Fitts's leadership, Tulane has achieved an
10 unprecedented level of success on every measure of academic excellence; and

11 WHEREAS, research funding has increased by seventy percent in the last six years
12 alone, bringing hundreds of millions of dollars each year in external funding to Louisiana
13 for the study of infectious disease, aging, brain health, and many other fields including
14 preserving and protecting Louisiana's coastlands; and

15 WHEREAS, President Fitts is leading Tulane on a period of historic physical growth
16 including a once-in-a-generation expansion of its downtown campus that will be anchored
17 by the revitalization of the Charity Hospital building and the repurposing of the Tulane
18 Medical Center building; and

19 WHEREAS, these efforts will transform Tulane's downtown campus into a thriving
20 center of cutting-edge research and innovation featuring a new nursing program, the Tulane

1 Innovation Institute, and more; it will create thousands of jobs while reimagining Louisiana
2 as a healthcare destination and a hub for discovery in the biosciences; and

3 WHEREAS, President Fitts has launched initiatives to keep the best and brightest
4 high school students in Louisiana; these initiatives include partnerships with local high
5 schools and the Louisiana Promise Program, which meets the full financial need of attending
6 Tulane for Louisiana students whose families make less than \$100,000 per year; and

7 WHEREAS, these initiatives complement such efforts as the Legislative Scholars
8 Program and the Mayoral Scholars programs, which President Fitts recently expanded; and

9 WHEREAS, in the decade that President Fitts has led the university, growing
10 percentages of Tulane graduates have stayed in Louisiana after graduation; and

11 WHEREAS, Tulane is an economic driver in Louisiana with an annual economic
12 impact of more than \$3.1 billion; it directly employs over eight thousand people; and

13 WHEREAS, President Fitts is most deserving of the highest recognition for his long-
14 running service to and incredible success at one of Louisiana's most treasured institutions.

15 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
16 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Tulane president, Michael A. Fitts, for his
17 incredible ten years as leader of Tulane University and wish him and the university
18 continued success in bettering life for all Louisianans by educating the leaders and
19 discovering the cures of tomorrow.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HR 32 Original

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Freeman

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