

By: Representatives K. Ferguson, Bragg, Holcomb, Lynch, Wing, Perry, V. Flowers, Warren,
McCullough

HOUSE RESOLUTION

TO COMMEMORATE THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
NATIONAL CENTER FOR TOXICOLOGICAL RESEARCH.

Subtitle

TO COMMEMORATE THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR TOXICOLOGICAL
RESEARCH.

WHEREAS, by Executive Order in 1971, President Nixon established the National Center for Toxicological Research (NCTR) in Jefferson, Arkansas, as a part of the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to provide a scientific basis of proof that United States consumers are protected from toxic chemicals, drugs, and other agents and to determine safe levels of toxic chemicals, drugs, and other agents when appropriate; and

WHEREAS, the FDA is responsible for the safety of the nation's domestically-produced and imported foods, cosmetics, drugs, biologics, medical devices, radiological products, and tobacco; directly influences the lives of everyone in the United States; and oversees the safety of more than one trillion dollars (\$1,000,000,000,000) worth of consumer goods, and which amounts to about twenty-five cents (\$.25) of every consumer dollar spent in this country and is estimated to include four hundred sixty-six billion dollars (\$466,000,000,000) in food sales, two hundred seventy-five billion dollars (\$275,000,000,000) in drugs, sixty billion dollars (\$60,000,000,000) in cosmetics, and eighteen billion dollars (\$18,000,000,000) in vitamin supplements; and



WHEREAS, NCTR is a research institution with more than one million (1,000,000) square feet of facilities and one hundred twenty-three (123) laboratories spread across thirty (30) buildings in Jefferson; has six hundred sixty-four (664) employees who reside in nineteen (19) counties across Arkansas and place approximately sixty-five million dollars (\$65,000,000) into the local, state, and national economies; and invests approximately ten million (\$10,000,000) annually on construction, maintenance, and renovations that stimulate the local economy; and

WHEREAS, NCTR has a long history of providing scientific advice and training to scientists in government, academia, and industry at local, state, national, and international levels, exemplified by training PhD candidates and other researchers from Arkansas universities, collaborating with Arkansas university researchers, and providing millions of dollars in funding for Arkansas university research; and

WHEREAS, in 2011, the FDA and the State of Arkansas desired to set forth a framework for a formal working relationship between the FDA and the state to foster stronger partnerships that leveraged resources and the ability to be more effective than each entity operating in isolation; the FDA and the state entered into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for an initial term of five (5) years; the MOU was signed by the Commissioner of the FDA and the Governor; and in 2016, the MOU was renewed through amendment for another five-year term and is up for renewal again later this year; and

WHEREAS, the ability to rapidly respond to the need for a strong, early coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) testing capability was greatly improved by the MOU through which NCTR director Dr. William Slikker provided critical testing equipment to the Arkansas Department of Health; and

WHEREAS, Arkansas has benefited enormously from the presence of NCTR within the state, including its generation of millions of dollars to support university research and numerous collaborations, which benefits can continue only if NCTR remains supported and funded at a level that enables it to retain and recruit highly-trained researchers and provide them with equipment and other necessary resources; and

WHEREAS, Act 563 of 2007 authorized the creation of the Arkansas Research Alliance (ARA) under the Science and Technology Authority, an entity supported by a Board of Directors comprised of the chancellors of Arkansas's five (5) research universities and senior management of twenty (20) of Arkansas's most significant industries; and

WHEREAS, since 2008, ARA has been chartered as a 501(c)(3) public-private partnership whose mission is supporting the development and extension of job-creating research in Arkansas, is uniquely positioned to coordinate research activities across industry, academia, state and federal government, was empowered by the Governor in association with the Arkansas Department of Commerce to represent the state; and

WHEREAS, the state's scientific and clinical efforts and participation supporting the MOU are derived primarily from the state's research universities and other institutions; and

WHEREAS, the FDA, NCTR, the State of Arkansas, and ARA aim to continue leveraging the entities' combined strengths, resources, and proximity for stimulating research and innovation in regulatory science, education, and training within the scope of the FDA mission and the broader academic and larger health and welfare charge of Arkansas's institutions; and

WHEREAS, NCTR will hold a fiftieth anniversary celebration on August 11, 2021, in Jefferson, Arkansas,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the House of Representatives recognize the significance of the contributions of the National Center for Toxicological Research and commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of its accomplishments.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption, a copy be provided to the Arkansas

Congressional Delegation by the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives.