# BRIDGING THE HEALTHCARE GAP

HB 826 by Zerwas/Coleman SB 650 by Huffman/Miles

UH seeks to establish a College of Medicine focused on preparing primary care doctors to practice in underserved urban and rural communities and building on interdisciplinary health research already underway at the University.

# WHY A NEW COLLEGE OF MEDICINE IN HOUSTON AND TEXAS, AND WHY NOW?

- ▶ Houston area has grown by 4 million people since the last medical school was established in 1972
- Texas ranks 47th out of 50 states in primary care physician to population ratio
- ▶ Projected need is 6,260 additional primary care physicians in Texas by 2030 to keep up with population growth
- ▶ While it is home to the Texas Medical Center, parts of Houston have significant health and healthcare disparities, without primary care doctors who are patients' first defense in preventing chronic diseases and identifying behavioral and mental health issues
- ▶ There is a ratio of only 52 physicians per 100,000 population in counties of 400,000 people or less in Texas, compared to 228 per 100,000 for the five most populous counties and 183 per 1000,000 for the entire state.

## WHY UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON?

- Mission and values focused on identifying and responding to the economic, social and cultural issues affecting the quality of life in Houston, Texas and beyond
- ▶ Comprehensive university with existing health and health-related professions, colleges, and programs, in addition to many other colleges and programs which will contribute to all missions of a College of Medicine

### WHAT IS IN PLACE?

- A commitment from HCA Healthcare Gulf Coast Division to bring 142 first year resident positions by 2022 to Houston, Texas. This will expand to 389 total new resident positions by 2025. Texas needs residencies because physicians choose to practice close to the place where they do their residency. Many of these new resident positions will be in primary care.
- ▶ A clinical partner to operate a new integrated primary care/behavioral health clinic on the UH campus
- ▶ Facility already established for start-up for administration and student instruction for the first two years after charter class enrollment and funding plan for new building
- Existing faculty and staff to engage in completing the accreditation process
- ▶ \$31.1 million in private support including two endowed professorships and 4 years of tuition scholarships for inaugural class of 30 students.

#### WHAT IS THE BUSINESS PLAN?

- Estimated annual operating expenditures at full student enrollment (480) and faculty and support staff (130): \$33 million (2016 dollars)
- Estimated operating start-up funds needed over the first 10 years until reaching break even is \$120 million.

#### WHAT IS THE OUTCOME?

- Education and graduation of physicians who choose primary care specialties (50%) and who include underrepresented minorities in medicine (50%)
- ▶ Projected economic impact of \$1 billion over 25 years
- ▶ Projected employment impact of 6,410 new jobs over 25 years
- ▶ Projected increase in UH Health Research to \$125 million annually

