

1 State of Arkansas
2 93rd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2021

HR 1047

4
5 By: Representatives K. Ferguson, Bragg, Holcomb, Lynch, Wing, Perry, V. Flowers, Warren,
6 McCullough

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8 **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

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

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13 **Subtitle**

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

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

24
25 WHEREAS, the FDA is responsible for the safety of the nation's
26 domestically-produced and imported foods, cosmetics, drugs, biologics,
27 medical devices, radiological products, and tobacco; directly influences the
28 lives of everyone in the United States; and oversees the safety of more than
29 one trillion dollars (\$1,000,000,000,000) worth of consumer goods, and which
30 amounts to about twenty-five cents (\$.25) of every consumer dollar spent in
31 this country and is estimated to include four hundred sixty-six billion
32 dollars (\$466,000,000,000) in food sales, two hundred seventy-five billion
33 dollars (\$275,000,000,000) in drugs, sixty billion dollars (\$60,000,000,000)
34 in cosmetics, and eighteen billion dollars (\$18,000,000,000) in vitamin
35 supplements; and

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1 WHEREAS, NCTR is a research institution with more than one million
2 (1,000,000) square feet of facilities and one hundred twenty-three (123)
3 laboratories spread across thirty (30) buildings in Jefferson; has six
4 hundred sixty-four (664) employees who reside in nineteen (19) counties
5 across Arkansas and place approximately sixty-five million dollars
6 (\$65,000,000) into the local, state, and national economies; and invests
7 approximately ten million (\$10,000,000) annually on construction,
8 maintenance, and renovations that stimulate the local economy; and
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10 WHEREAS, NCTR has a long history of providing scientific advice and
11 training to scientists in government, academia, and industry at local, state,
12 national, and international levels, exemplified by training PhD candidates
13 and other researchers from Arkansas universities, collaborating with Arkansas
14 university researchers, and providing millions of dollars in funding for
15 Arkansas university research; and
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17 WHEREAS, in 2011, the FDA and the State of Arkansas desired to set
18 forth a framework for a formal working relationship between the FDA and the
19 state to foster stronger partnerships that leveraged resources and the
20 ability to be more effective than each entity operating in isolation; the FDA
21 and the state entered into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for an initial
22 term of five (5) years; the MOU was signed by the Commissioner of the FDA and
23 the Governor; and in 2016, the MOU was renewed through amendment for another
24 five-year term and is up for renewal again later this year; and
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26 WHEREAS, the ability to rapidly respond to the need for a strong, early
27 coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) testing capability was greatly improved by the
28 MOU through which NCTR director Dr. William Slikker provided critical testing
29 equipment to the Arkansas Department of Health; and
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31 WHEREAS, Arkansas has benefited enormously from the presence of NCTR
32 within the state, including its generation of millions of dollars to support
33 university research and numerous collaborations, which benefits can continue
34 only if NCTR remains supported and funded at a level that enables it to
35 retain and recruit highly-trained researchers and provide them with equipment
36 and other necessary resources; and

1
2 WHEREAS, Act 563 of 2007 authorized the creation of the Arkansas
3 Research Alliance (ARA) under the Science and Technology Authority, an entity
4 supported by a Board of Directors comprised of the chancellors of Arkansas's
5 five (5) research universities and senior management of twenty (20) of
6 Arkansas's most significant industries; and

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

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

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

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25 WHEREAS, NCTR will hold a fiftieth anniversary celebration on August
26 11, 2021, in Jefferson, Arkansas,

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28 NOW THEREFORE,

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

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

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

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

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