

# House Concurrent Resolution No. 13

## 96TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES WYATT (Sponsor), REDMON, QUINN, HOUGHTON, SHUMAKE, FRANKLIN, ASBURY, BURLISON, FITZWATER, HAEFNER, LEACH, KELLEY (126), McNARY, ALLEN, NOLTE, KELLY (24), HOSKINS, RICHARDSON, SMITH (150), HINSON, SIFTON, NASHEED, BAHR, JONES (63), ZERR, ELLINGER, CRAWFORD, BLACK, COLONA, WEBBER, SCHUPP, MONTECILLO, LASATER, DIEHL AND CAUTHORN (Co-sponsors).

0576L.021

2           **WHEREAS**, Missouri has only one dental school, which is at the University of Missouri-  
3 Kansas City. The state ranks 47th in residents visiting a dentist. About 18% of Missouri's  
4 residents live in a dental health professional shortage area, compared to 10% of residents of the  
5 United States as a whole. Missouri also has more than 140 designated dental health professional  
6 shortage areas. Each year in Missouri 70 dentists retire, to be replaced by only 40 new  
7 practitioners; and

8  
9           **WHEREAS**, A.T. Still University of Health Sciences is considering three locations for  
10 establishing a new School of Dentistry and Oral Health based upon its dental education program  
11 in Mesa, Arizona. One of the three sites is Kirksville, Missouri; the other two are in California  
12 and Florida. ATSU has initiated a feasibility study to be completed prior to its next Board of  
13 Trustees meeting in early February 2011. Early findings indicate a great need for dentists in  
14 public practice in Missouri; and

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16           **WHEREAS**, ATSU has a long history in Kirksville, beginning with the founding of the  
17 world's first School of Osteopathic Medicine there in 1892. ATSU's commitment to Kirksville,  
18 northeast Missouri, and the whole State of Missouri is longstanding and continues to be firm.  
19 A School of Dentistry and Oral Health in Kirksville would further cement that commitment; and

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21           **WHEREAS**, the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors cites a twenty-year  
22 decline in the number of practicing dentists and projects a continuing drop in dental school  
23 graduates. Addressing the unmet needs of dental patients in rural Missouri and other  
24 underserved areas in Missouri exactly fits ATSU's mission and would benefit northeastern  
25 Missouri and the entire state. The ATSU model focuses on preparing dentists for public health  
26 practice; and

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28           **WHEREAS**, the positive economic impact on Kirksville and the surrounding northern  
29 Missouri area will be in the tens of millions of dollars annually. ATSU's preliminary goal would  
30 be to open the new school in Fall 2013 with an inaugural class of about 45 students; and

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32           **WHEREAS**, the Missouri Primary Care Association actively supports the establishment  
33 of ATSU's dental school in Kirksville. The Association is a statewide organization of  
34 community health centers (CHCs) which serve medically underserved areas and vulnerable  
35 populations, including rural locations such as northeast Missouri. CHCs outside of Missouri in  
36 10 states, including Kansas, the Dakotas, Nebraska, and Iowa, as well as the Cherokee Nation  
37 in Oklahoma, have also pledged their support to an ATSU dental school in Kirksville; and  
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39           **WHEREAS**, ATSU officials believe that establishing a new dental school in Missouri  
40 will require the development of numerous strategic partnerships. For example, ATSU estimates  
41 that the startup costs for a dental school in Kirksville will be approximately \$30 million over five  
42 years. The new school will require satellite clinical sites outside Kirksville in locations like  
43 Springfield, St. Louis, or Columbia that would be organized cooperatively with local CHCs.  
44 Consequently, ATSU is working with a number of organizations, such as the Missouri  
45 Foundation for Health, the national CHC organization, Missouri CHCs, and others, to help  
46 defray the cost and to organize the partnerships necessary to make this initiative a reality; and  
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48           **WHEREAS**, Governor Jay Nixon has already expressed support for the program:  
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50           **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the House of  
51 Representatives of the Ninety-sixth General Assembly, First Regular Session, the Senate  
52 concurring therein, hereby strongly support the selection of Kirksville, Missouri, as the site for  
53 A.T. Still University's new School of Dentistry and Oral Health; and  
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55           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of  
56 Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for the A.T.  
57 Still University Board of Trustees.