

THIS IS A PROPOSED DRAFT AND WILL BE REPLACED BY THE
FINAL, SIGNED ORDINANCE OR RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE
CITY COUNCIL.

A RESOLUTION

**ACKNOWLEDGING AND SUPPORTING THE IMPORTANCE OF
MAINTAINING BROOKE ARMY MEDICAL CENTER (BAMC) AND ITS
MILITARY MISSIONS IN THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS.**

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WHEREAS, BAMC, as a certified Level 1 Trauma Center, plays a critical role in patient care, graduate medical education and research, as well as caring for wounded military service members, and civilian members of the San Antonio community; and

WHEREAS, BAMC, along with other medical institutions, provides support to 22 counties in Southwest Texas, covering over 26,000 square miles, servicing over 2.2 million people, including San Antonio, the 7th largest city in the country; and

WHEREAS, on a monthly basis, the center receives more than 6,000 emergency room visits and is one of only 34 hospitals in the United States that holds both Level 1 Trauma certification and accreditation from the American Burn Association; and

WHEREAS, 40 beds are dedicated to the Army Institute of Surgical Research, which operates the only Department of Defense Burn Center which is the sole Burn Center for Southwest Texas; and

WHEREAS, BAMC military health professionals benefit from being a Level I through the large number of complex trauma from the community replicating wartime injuries allowing maintenance of skills of 8,800 staff surgeons, nurses, technicians, and other allied health personnel for wartime readiness; and

WHEREAS, future providers are trained to go to war, as over 600 physicians and fellows are in Graduate Medical Education (GME) programs and 900 medical students rotate annually at BAMC, most of which benefit from caring for trauma patients, with several programs (orthopedics, ophthalmology, emergency medicine, and otolaryngology) relying on trauma patients to achieve case minimums; and

WHEREAS, the center's 67 outpatient specialty clinics record a million patient visits each year. The hospital sustains over 60 accredited educational programs that include 35 graduate medical education programs, eight nursing programs, 24 enlisted allied health and medic phase II training programs along with additional programs in administration and allied health specialties; and

WHEREAS, the hospital has cared for thousands of service members who were injured in Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, and nearly 1,500 medical professionals have been deployed in support of those missions; and

WHEREAS, BAMC leading, managing, developing and running a high volume, well integrated Level I trauma center had a direct impact on the decrease in combat fatalities; and

WHEREAS, the Level I Trauma center exists within a unique fully integrated, cooperative and effective civilian military trauma system in partnership with University Health System and the Southwest Texas Regional Advisory Council; and

WHEREAS, the University Hospital as the city's other Level I trauma center is BAMC's mission partner. University Hospital and the faculty of UT Health San Antonio play a significant role in the care of critically ill patients, education, and training of military health professionals from all the services. In concert with this unique partnership, the level of clinical activity of the Level I Trauma Center at University Health System must also not be compromised; and

WHEREAS, eighty-five percent of BAMC's trauma patients are civilians with no military medical benefits who are cared for under the Secretary of the Army Designee Program; and

WHEREAS, loss of Level I trauma or a significant decrement in trauma patient volume will have a direct, negative effect on the training of future military health professionals both on the battlefield and in the San Antonio community, and maintaining current healthcare professionals' wartime combat casualty skills; and

WHEREAS, loss of the BAMC mission would threaten additional military missions during a time when the Department of Defense is looking for efficiencies throughout the enterprise. Additionally, any reduction in the BAMC mission would cause a significant loss of wartime readiness and maintenance of skills of approximately 8,800 staff surgeons, nurses, technicians, and other allied health personnel; and

WHEREAS, the medical literature validates a decrement of as little as 1% of the volume in a level I trauma center decreases survival rates, the citizens of San Antonio and Southwest Texas could experience a decrease in the quality of trauma care if volume is decremented at BAMC; and

WHEREAS, loss of the BAMC mission would adversely affect countless civilian citizens who may suffer catastrophic injuries and have no military medical benefits, and would sever a long-standing, mutually beneficial relationship between the military and the citizens of Southwest Texas; and

WHEREAS, loss of the BAMC military mission could threaten additional missions causing a devastating setback to the City of San Antonio's economy which the Texas State Comptroller announced to be approximately \$49 billion annually; **NOW THEREFORE:**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO:

SECTION 1. The San Antonio City Council fully supports protecting BAMC’s mission through preserving the necessary critical trauma patient volume required for high quality outcomes for civilians and for military mission readiness.

SECTION 2. The San Antonio City Council also acknowledges the center’s importance to regional trauma care, military medical training, and the important role the center plays in the nation’s defense.

SECTION 3. This Resolution is effective immediately if passed by eight affirmative votes; otherwise, this Resolution is effective ten days from the date of passage.

PASSED and APPROVED this 14th day of December, 2017.

M A Y O R
Ron Nirenberg

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Leticia M. Vacek
City Clerk

Andrew Segovia
City Attorney