

# HJR257 ENROLLED



1 HJR257  
2 4U7HSRR-2  
3 By Representatives Whitt, Reynolds, Rigsby, Lomax, Daniels,  
4 Hall, Lands, Moore (P)  
5 RFD: Rules  
6 First Read: 17-Mar-26



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1 Enrolled, An Act,

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4 CELEBRATING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF DR. CHARLES L. KARR UPON  
5 THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT.

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7 WHEREAS, it is with profound appreciation and deepest  
8 admiration that we celebrate Dr. Charles L. Karr for more  
9 than 30 distinguished years in higher education, including  
10 26 years at The University of Alabama, where he served as  
11 Dean of the College of Engineering before leading The  
12 University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH) as interim  
13 president and then President since September 2022; we also  
14 take this opportunity to heartily congratulate him upon his  
15 upcoming retirement, effective in May 2026; and

16 WHEREAS, Dr. Karr's retirement concludes a  
17 transformative tenure defined by visionary leadership,  
18 deepened community engagement, and the creation of a dynamic  
19 campus atmosphere; he first joined UAH as interim president  
20 in November 2021 and was named President the following year;  
21 in that time, he has helped to advance UAH's academic  
22 mission, strengthen its research enterprise, expand  
23 facilities, and champion student success; and

24 WHEREAS, under Dr. Karr's leadership, UAH has  
25 initiated major capital projects that will transform the  
26 campus; the university broke ground and is nearing  
27 completion of the Raymond B. Jones Engineering Building, and  
28 renovations will soon begin on the Bevill Center, enhancing



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29 the Center for Cybersecurity Research, Education, and  
30 Advanced Training; the campus will also start construction  
31 of a new Track and Field Complex, and critical funding was  
32 secured to develop the former Executive Plaza site; and

33 WHEREAS, during Dr. Karr's tenure, UAH achieved  
34 Top-10 federally funded national rankings in four research  
35 areas for the 12th consecutive year; the annual research and  
36 development expenditures topped nearly \$640 million within  
37 the last five years; of particular note, UAH made a major  
38 impact in the weather industry through becoming home to the  
39 largest mobile weather radar facility in the country; and

40 WHEREAS, Dr. Karr's presidency is held in high regard  
41 for his ability to reinvigorate Huntsville's connection to  
42 UAH; he was pivotal in the establishment of the Air  
43 Force/Space Force ROTC operating location; Dr. Karr has  
44 graciously welcomed international dignitaries, researchers,  
45 and industry leaders to campus to foster collaboration; his  
46 community engagement efforts are one of his hallmark  
47 accomplishments, especially enhancing relationships with  
48 Redstone Arsenal, Cummings Research Park, business,  
49 education, and health care sectors; and

50 WHEREAS, a passionate advocate for student  
51 recruitment, Dr. Karr's efforts have contributed to  
52 record-setting, high-achieving freshman classes in Fall 2024  
53 and 2025, with average GPAs of 3.97 and ACT scores of 27;  
54 UAH also garnered national recognition for its Colleges of  
55 Business, Engineering, and Nursing; and

56 WHEREAS, Dr. Karr supervised a renewed emphasis on



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57 athletics and student life at UAH; the university earned  
58 multiple Gulf South Conference championships, and a  
59 successful athletic logo rebranding was launched to  
60 modernize the Chargers' visual identity; he has nurtured a  
61 warm and vibrant campus life through enthusiastically  
62 participating in student events, from hitting fly balls to  
63 the baseball team to cheering on the Space Hardware Club at  
64 NASA's Human Exploration Rover Challenge; and

65 WHEREAS, Dr. Karr's unprecedented successes have  
66 earned numerous awards, including induction into the State  
67 of Alabama Engineering Hall of Fame; he has also served on  
68 various local and state boards, making a significant impact;  
69 the UAH and UAH Foundation's endowment crossed the \$100  
70 million threshold during his presidency; and

71 WHEREAS, under Dr. Karr's leadership, UAH has  
72 strengthened its identity as a research and academic  
73 powerhouse and a critical asset to regional and national  
74 success; he and his wife, Jodie, have made a noteworthy mark  
75 on the Huntsville community and, upon retirement, they will  
76 live in Florida; now therefore,

77 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
78 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we hereby most highly  
79 commend Dr. Charles L. Karr for more than three decades of  
80 faithful devotion to higher education and for his steadfast  
81 commitment as President of The University of Alabama in  
82 Huntsville, and we extend to him our heartfelt gratitude and  
83 sincere best wishes for continued health, happiness, and  
84 fulfillment in his future endeavors.

