



RESOLUTION

- Whereas,** The Board of Regents of The University of Texas System has taken a bold step for the future of higher education in Texas by proposing the creation of a new university with campuses spanning the Rio Grande Valley that will combine The University of Texas at Brownsville, The University of Texas - Pan American and a future medical school; and
- Whereas,** higher education investments for South Texas have not been at equal levels historically as other parts of the State of Texas; and
- Whereas,** the proposed South Texas Plan would not require additional funding nor take away from the other University of Texas System institutions; and
- Whereas,** with a combined student population estimated at 28,000 students the new university will be one of the largest designated Hispanic-serving institutions in the nation and, with initial annual research expenditures of \$11 million, the new university provides the foundation for an emerging research university and, ultimately, the first Tier One university in South Texas; and
- Whereas,** in such close proximity to The University of Texas at San Antonio, with an enrollment of 30,474 and a 45% Hispanic population, as well as, a designated Tier-One emerging research university, and The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, which is recognized among the Top Public Research Universities, the new university and its future medical school will bring to a broad region of South Texas a synergy in education, research, and the ensuing economic development for which higher education is an unparalleled engine making it the San Antonio/South Texas connection to Bioscience Healthcare Education Partnership; and
- Whereas,** the new university will have dramatic economic impact in South Texas and the Rio Grande Valley, including providing 7,000 to 10,000 jobs, while fostering the educational and knowledge base essential to a 21st Century economy; and
- Whereas,** if approved by two-thirds of the membership of the Legislature, the new university will be the first Valley institution eligible to participate in the Permanent University Fund, an endowment that has fostered development of the other institutions within The University of Texas System; and
- Whereas,** The Board of Regents, having previously invested millions of dollars in support of medical education and services in South Texas has also committed \$100 million over the next 10 years to accelerate the pace of transitioning the Regional Academic Health Center into the new medical school; and

Whereas, the development of the new medical school will not only provide critically needed research and health care benefitting the growing South Texas population, but also complement developments in San Antonio such as the new children's hospital in San Antonio;

Whereas, what benefits this important, fast-growing region of Texas benefits the economic vitality of the entire State of Texas; now, therefore,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE SAN ANTONIO HISPANIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE:

- I. Be it Resolved by the San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, that the chamber hereby expresses its support for the creation of the new University of Texas System institution of the first class in the Lower Rio Grande Valley; and, be it further
- II. Resolved, that this resolution be forwarded to the members of the legislature representing the areas covered by this chamber as an expression of support for this important proposal and an encouragement of enactment of legislation authorizing The University of Texas System to establish and maintain such an institution.