

# Hidalgo County

## Proclamation for Epilepsy Awareness Day

- Whereas* Epilepsy Awareness Day is a nationwide effort of the Epilepsy Foundation to raise awareness about, and change the conversation around, the epilepsies, seizures and side effects, as well as to improve and save lives through care, advocacy, research and new therapies, and education; and
- Whereas* epilepsy is a brain disorder characterized by recurrent and unprovoked seizures that can affect anyone, at any age, any time; and
- Whereas* epilepsy is a spectrum disease comprised of many diagnoses and experiences and includes a wide range of seizure types, comorbidities, control, severity, and outcomes varying from person-to-person; and
- Whereas* epilepsy is the fourth most common neurological disorder. Approximately 3.4 million people in the U.S. including 292,000 in Texas live with active epilepsy; and
- Whereas* approximately 710,000 Hispanics are living with active epilepsy in the U.S.; and
- Whereas* it is estimated that 15,667 people in Hidalgo county have epilepsy; and
- Whereas* it is estimated that 5,200 senior citizens in Hidalgo county have epilepsy; and
- Whereas* an increasing number of people are diagnosed with rare epilepsies which are largely complex, severe, chronic and even life-threatening, and collectively rare epilepsies account for a growing percentage of the epilepsy population; and
- Whereas* many treatments are approved to treat seizures, 30 - 40% of people with epilepsy still live with uncontrolled seizures and the epilepsy-related medical costs associated with uncontrolled epilepsy are 2 to 10 times higher than those of controlled epilepsy; and
- Whereas* annual epilepsy-specific healthcare costs can be up to \$19,749 per person and 21% of people with epilepsy have reported not being able to afford their prescription medication(s) in the last year; and
- Whereas* people with epilepsy need access to affordable, comprehensive, physician-directed and person-centered healthcare; and
- Whereas* 470,000 children live with epilepsy in the U.S. and students with epilepsy aged 6 - 17 years old have missed 11 or more days of school the past year on average, greater education and improved access to care is needed in schools which can be accomplished by passing Seizure Safe Schools legislation nationwide; and
- Whereas* protections exist in the Americans with Disabilities Act and related civil rights laws, people with epilepsy still encounter discrimination in areas including employment, education and housing; and
- Whereas* epilepsy can affect anyone with a brain, and anyone with a brain can affect epilepsy; and
- Whereas* through action together on Epilepsy Awareness Day and during other awareness initiatives, including International Epilepsy Day, National Epilepsy Awareness Month, and Brain Awareness Week - and any day of the year - we must increase public knowledge about the epilepsies and seizure first aid and change the way people think about the epilepsies and seizures.

*Now therefore, be it proclaimed* that the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court recognizes "Epilepsy Awareness Day," as November 16<sup>th</sup> and encourages Hidalgo County residents to take action together and use our brains to overcome the challenges of living with the epilepsies and accelerate therapies to stop seizures, find cures and save lives.

Approved this 17<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2020.



*Richard F. Cortez*

RICHARD F. CORTEZ  
County Judge

*David L. Fuentes*

DAVID L. FUENTES  
County Commissioner, Pct. 1

*Eduardo "Eddie" Cantu*

EDUARDO "EDDIE" CANTU  
County Commissioner, Pct. 2

*Joe M. Flores*

JOE M. FLORES

*Ellie Torres*

ELLIE TORRES

*Arturo Guajardo, Jr.*

Attest: ARTURO GUAJARDO, JR.  
County Clerk