

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A MEDICAL SCHOOL FOR HIDALGO COUNTY**

**WHEREAS**, Hidalgo County has a desire to increase the number of health professionals across the Rio Grande Valley, thereby increasing access to quality health care and improving healthy living among residents in South Texas; and

**WHEREAS**, studies have shown that the Rio Grande Valley is medically underserved with 110 doctors for every 100,000 persons, which is half the national rate and below the state average; this medical professional shortage is evidence of the need for expanding academic opportunities and increasing the number of health professionals across the Rio Grande Valley; and

**WHEREAS**, Hidalgo County firmly believes that the development of a medical school is necessary for addressing both the education needs of the region and the projected critical need for physicians and health professionals in the Rio Grande Valley; and

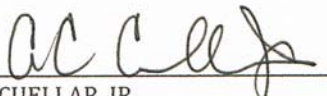
**WHEREAS**, the development of a medical school in the Rio Grande Valley will yield tremendous educational opportunities and economic benefits, creating thousands of new jobs, offering high-quality medical and health care professional education, attracting new ancillary industries to the region, and most importantly, providing better options for health care for our residents; and


**WHEREAS**, Hidalgo County has expressed its strong support behind legislative efforts to develop a medical school in the Rio Grande Valley; Hidalgo County supports a vision for a medical school built on a community-based distributed model of medical education that considers the medical facilities in the Rio Grande Valley, as well as the resources and investments made available for building campus facilities; and


**WHEREAS**, commitments have been secured to leverage substantial financial and in-kind support toward developing the first two years of medical education in Hidalgo County; in addition, Hidalgo County boasts one of the largest tax bases in the Rio Grande Valley, with property tax market values totaling over \$35 billion annually, which will further support the long-term development and sustainment of the medical school.

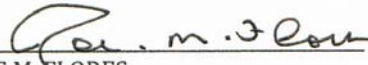
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Hidalgo County Commissioners' Court hereby pledges support for the development of a medical school for the Rio Grande Valley, with the first two years of education being located in Hidalgo County.

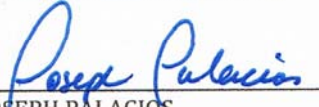
Dated this 16<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2013.

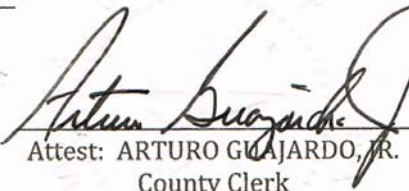
  
A.C. CUELLAR, JR.  
County Commissioner, Pct. 1

  
RAMON GARCIA  
County Judge

  
HECTOR "TITO" PALACIOS  
County Commissioner, Pct. 2

  
JOE M. FLORES  
County Commissioner, Pct. 3

  
JOSEPH PALACIOS  
County Commissioner, Pct. 4

  
Attest: ARTURO GUAJARDO, JR.  
County Clerk