



League of United Latin American Citizens

Resolution in Support of the LULAC El Paso Law School Initiative

Whereas, the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), founded in 1929, is the nation's largest and oldest civil rights volunteer based organization that has championed the cause of Hispanic Americans in education, employment, economic development, civil rights and access to housing and healthcare; and

Whereas, LULAC filed a class action lawsuit entitled LULAC vs. Richards in 1991 against the State of Texas for underfunding higher education opportunities of Hispanic Americans who resided along the 41 contiguous South Texas counties stretching 2,000 miles between El Paso and Brownsville along the U.S. - Mexico border; and

Whereas, LULAC won the higher education discrimination suit resulting in more than \$470 million appropriated by the Texas Legislature to be spent solely along Texas' U.S.- Mexico border ensuring in Hispanic Americans having greater access to masters and doctoral programs without having to leave their cities, homes and families to obtain a quality higher education; and

Whereas, LULAC agrees the landmark legal and legislative accomplishment has benefitted Hispanic Americans along the border but more funding from Texas by the legislature, University of the Texas System, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for doctoral programs in medical and law along in South Texas is needed to achieve fair and equitable access to higher education; and

Whereas, the border City of El Paso in far west Texas is the State's 6th largest city with about 80% predominately Hispanic Americans yet unlike the other large cities does not have a law school; and

Whereas, the "Judge Albert Armendariz, Sr." LULAC Council 4982 and District IV in El Paso voted to support the LULAC El Paso Law School Initiative to bring access for Hispanic Americans in El Paso and surrounding areas to a law doctoral program that would focus on international law as it pertains to treaties, trade, environmental, health and commercial and contracts;

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved, that LULAC National supports the LULAC El Paso Law School Initiative thereby ensuring and continuing the fight for higher education for Hispanic Americans as prescribed successfully and convincingly in the LULAC vs Richards higher education discriminatory landmark case.

Voted and approved at the 2016 National LULAC Convention - July 16, 2016.

Roger C. Rocha, Jr.
LULAC National President