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Healthcare

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Workforce Development

Monica Stewart  
Immigration

**Mission:**

**To make Legislative  
recommendations to help  
the Texas Border Region  
grow and prosper  
economically.**



**A Resolution of Principles for Smart and Effective  
Health Care Reform**

Whereas, the Texas Border Coalition is the collective voice of border mayors, county judges, and communities on issues that affect Texas-Mexico board region quality of life; and,

Whereas, the Texas Border Coalition strives to provide a better quality of life for the people who make up the communities of the Texas-Mexico border region by providing economic development opportunities, sustainable incomes in a healthy and safe environment, assuring the flow of goods and products between Texas-Mexico and advocating for government policies that support transportation, immigration and Ports of Entry, our workforce, education, healthcare and other areas vital to the betterment of our communities; and,

Whereas, access to quality health care is essential for the good health and productivity of every American citizen; and

Whereas, one-quarter of Texans lack health insurance. Texas' uninsurance rate, twice the national average, creates significant problems for the people and communities in the delivery and financing of health care to all Texans; and

Whereas, Texas border communities have the highest shares of uninsured residents in the state: nine of the ten counties in Texas with the highest uninsured rates are on the Texas-Mexico border; and,

Whereas, those who lack insurance coverage typically enjoy far worse health status than their insured counterparts; and,

Whereas, localities with the highest ratio of uninsured patients face (1) increased health care costs and spending on account of both cost-shifting and the uninsured seeking care in the least efficient settings, (2) increased pressures on municipalities and counties to support greater public spending on health care, and (3) the loss of fiscal stability by health care institutions, due to high uncompensated care burdens, that may lead to the loss of this major component of the local economy; and

Whereas, the increasing cost of accessing health care is causing financial hardships, bankruptcy, and mortgage foreclosures, and causing business to be uncompetitive in the world market;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

1. The Texas Border Coalition commends President Barack Obama and the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress of the United States for endeavoring to reform health care;
2. Legislation worthy of enactment must include basic provisions that make health care coverage available to every American -- supported by fair and adequate subsidies for low-income families;
3. Reform must feature a durable method of finance, based on equitable taxation and significant reforms aimed at reducing long-term economic costs;
4. Prices should negotiated in the marketplace to achieve cost-effective quality care;
5. Legislation should feature a rational plan for devising, testing, and fine-tuning the phase-in of reform; and
6. Reform should result in a fair, rational and patient-centered realignment of the Medicaid program and its benefits and eligibility standards consistent with these principles.

Adopted, this day of August 6, 2009, by unanimous vote of the Texas Border Coalition. Copies of this original resolution shall be immediately communicated to the public, elected officials in the U.S. Congress, the Texas Legislature and the President of the United States.

ATTEST:



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Chad Foster  
Chairman of the Texas Border Coalition and  
Mayor of the City Eagle Pass, Texas