WHEREAS, the McAllen Chamber of Commerce, with its 1,700 business and community members, is an organization which fosters the arts, innovation, entrepreneurship, small business development and education in McAllen and the surrounding communities.

WHEREAS, the McAllen Chamber of Commerce is committed to a world class education and sees higher education as the future of this region.

WHEREAS, The University of Texas Board of Regents unanimously approved an initiative to authorize Chancellor Francisco G. Cigarroa to work with the Texas Legislature to establish a new university that includes the University of Texas-Pan American, the University of Texas-Brownsville, and a medical school to be located in the Rio Grande Valley;

WHEREAS, approval will unite the entities into one regional emerging research university and will become the only emerging researching university with a medical school;

WHEREAS, this unified university will be the second largest Hispanic institution in the nation;
WHEREAS the new university will capitalize on its location along the border and will enhance bicultural and bi-literate education for this rapidly growing population;

WHEREAS, this new university may become eligible for revenue from the Permanent University Fund, a major catalyst for building a world-class research university; and

WHEREAS, this new university and medical school is predicted to generate approximately 7,000 new jobs with an average salary of approximately $63,000 in South Texas;

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED that the McAllen Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors unanimously supports the creation of a new University with an accompanying medical school in the Rio Grande Valley and respectfully requests the support of the elected officials of the 83rd Legislative Session in this initiative.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 9th day of March, 2013.

Alma Ortega-Johnson, Chairman

John Wright, III, Vice Chairman

Karen Valdez, Past-Chairman

Brian Lewis, Chairman-Elect

Susan Valverde, Treasurer

Steve Ahlenius, President/CEO

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