CORPUS CHRISTI
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Prosperity. Together.

A resolution supporting a "Texas Way" program to reduce the number of uninsured in Nueces County and Texas.

WHEREAS, Texas employers and the continued success of the Texas economy depend on a healthy workforce; and more than 1.1 million low-wage working Texans have no access to public or affordable private health insurance; and

WHEREAS, Texas has the highest rate of residents without health insurance; 31% of adults and 14% of children are uninsured; and

WHEREAS, in Nueces County, 30% of adults and 12% of children are without health insurance; and local property taxpayers annually fund more than $30 million dollars in county indigent health care services; and

WHEREAS, businesses in Texas pay healthcare-related taxes twice; businesses pay local property taxes to cover county indigents that would otherwise currently qualify for expanded federal benefits, and businesses pay federal income taxes, but do not receive the benefits of expanded federal coverage; and

WHEREAS, federal tax penalties on employers are directly tied to state decisions about allowing expanded federal benefits for adults; employers will generally not face tax penalties for their employees who do not receive the benefits of expanded federal coverage; and

WHEREAS, the average insurance premium for a Texas family is $1,800 higher per year due to costs associated with uncompensated care for the uninsured; and

WHEREAS, Texas hospitals are sustaining $13 billion in funding cuts to pay for increasing access to health insurance coverage for the uninsured; and

WHEREAS, federal funds are available to increase access to health insurance for uninsured Texans; and

WHEREAS, Texas has the opportunity to be an innovation leader in health care coverage for the low-wage uninsured.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Corpus Christi Chamber of Commerce supports the development and implementation of a flexible "Texas Way" program that reduces the number uninsured in Nueces County and Texas.

Gabe Guerra
Chairman of the Board

Foster Edwards
President & CEO

01/21/2015
Date