

By: Raymond

H.R. No. 1386

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, In just one year, The University of Texas Community
2 Outreach has made a measurable difference in the effort to prevent
3 and control diabetes; and

4 WHEREAS, UTCO currently serves people in Cameron, Galveston,
5 Nueces, and Webb Counties who have diabetes or are at risk of
6 developing the disease; the program employs Department of State
7 Health Services-certified Community Health Workers to guide
8 education, nutrition, and physical activity interventions, and
9 between September 2009 and November 2010, UTCO achieved more than
10 39,000 contacts; and

11 WHEREAS, Economic savings and health impacts as a result of
12 this outreach have already been documented; a survey of Brownsville
13 clients revealed that only 40.9 percent met physical activity
14 guidelines without the intervention of a Community Health Worker,
15 while 59.1 percent met the guidelines if a trained UTCO Community
16 Health Worker guided an intervention; moreover, UTCO has seen
17 decreases in participants' blood glucose levels, abdominal weight,
18 and overall weight; and

19 WHEREAS, The average annual cost to treat an individual with
20 diabetes is \$12,000; for a fraction of that, \$21.50 per at-risk
21 individual per year, UTCO provides in-home prevention assistance,
22 screening and monitoring, media campaigns, exercise and nutrition
23 classes, and facilities; the average lifetime treatment cost for a
24 diabetic with end-stage renal disease is \$1.5 million, while the

1 UTCO annual budget for reaching 80,000 people in four counties is
2 only \$3 million; and

3 WHEREAS, A diabetes epidemic is overwhelming the state and
4 draining taxpayer funds; the low-cost UTCO model shifts the
5 emphasis from treatment to prevention, utilizing permanent local
6 expertise and infrastructure, and the program is indeed deserving
7 of recognition; now, therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
9 Legislature hereby honor The University of Texas Community Outreach
10 for its achievements in promoting community-based prevention and
11 control of diabetes and obesity and commend all those associated
12 with UTCO for their outstanding efforts; and, be it further

13 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
14 prepared for The University of Texas Community Outreach as an
15 expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.