

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 896

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

WHEREAS, This outstanding program, also known as UTCO, currently serves people in Cameron, Galveston, Nueces, and Webb Counties who have diabetes or are at risk of developing the disease; the program employs community health workers certified by the Department of State Health Services to guide education, nutrition, and physical activity interventions and achieved more than 39,000 contacts between September of 2009 and November of 2010; and

WHEREAS, Economic savings and health impacts as a result of this outreach have already been documented; a survey of Brownsville clients revealed that only 40.9 percent met physical activity guidelines without the intervention of a community health worker, while 59.1 percent met the guidelines if a trained community health worker from The University of Texas Community Outreach program guided an intervention; in addition, participants in the program have experienced decreases in blood glucose levels, abdominal weight, and overall weight; and

WHEREAS, The average annual cost to treat an individual with diabetes is \$12,000; for a fraction of that, \$21.50 per at-risk individual per year, The University of Texas Community Outreach program provides in-home prevention assistance, screening and monitoring, media campaigns, exercise and nutrition classes, and facilities; the average lifetime treatment cost for a diabetic with end-stage renal disease is \$1.5 million, while the annual budget for reaching 80,000 people in four counties through the community outreach program is only \$3 million; and

WHEREAS, A diabetes epidemic is overwhelming the state and draining taxpayer funds; the low-cost University of Texas Community Outreach model shifts the emphasis from treatment to prevention, utilizing permanent local expertise and infrastructure, and the program is indeed deserving of recognition; the program's presentation at the recent Texas Public Health Association annual meeting was designated as the Outstanding Research Paper Presentation based on the outcomes achieved in the prevention and control of diabetes; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 82nd Legislature, hereby honor The University of Texas Community Outreach program for its achievements in promoting community-based prevention and control of diabetes and obesity and commend all those associated with the program for their outstanding efforts; and, be it further

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RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for The University of Texas Community Outreach program as an expression of esteem from the Texas Senate.

Lucio, Hinojosa,
Jackson, Zaffirini

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on May 3, 2011.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate

Member, Texas Senate

Member, Texas Senate

Member, Texas Senate