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S.C.R. No. 47

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Food insecurity and inadequate nutrition are  
2 growing problems among families living in Texas border colonias;  
3 and

4 WHEREAS, In a recent study of Rio Grande Valley families, 80  
5 percent of mothers reported household food insecurity, and 64  
6 percent of children experienced food insecurity; these rates are  
7 higher than national rates, reflecting the region's poverty, lower  
8 levels of education, and average household size; and

9 WHEREAS, Children who are not well nourished are at a greater  
10 risk of negative behavioral, social, academic, and health outcomes;  
11 although school-based nutrition programs help, they may not be able  
12 to completely address children's needs; and

13 WHEREAS, Poor nutrition is a factor in diabetes and obesity,  
14 and these conditions cost the region hundreds of millions of  
15 dollars; underlying diabetes is present in over half of area  
16 hospital admissions for serious conditions, and the cost in lost  
17 wages alone has been calculated at \$227 million a year; and

18 WHEREAS, The Food, Nutrition, and Conservation Act of 2008  
19 authorized \$20 million for the Healthy Incentives Pilot; this  
20 project investigates the impact of making fruits and vegetables  
21 more affordable for participants in the Supplemental Nutrition  
22 Assistance Program; under HIP, beneficiaries earn a bonus of 30  
23 cents for every SNAP dollar they spend on healthy fruits and  
24 vegetables at participating retailers; interim results indicate

1 that consumption of fruits and vegetables increases significantly  
2 through the use of these incentives, and participants purchase a  
3 greater variety of produce items as well; and

4 WHEREAS, Federal nutrition assistance programs administered  
5 by the USDA are powerful tools to promote well-being; many  
6 residents of the Rio Grande Valley are SNAP recipients, and the  
7 implementation of HIP could play an important role in improving  
8 nutrition and reducing obesity, diabetes, and related maladies in  
9 the region; now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the 84th Legislature of the State of Texas  
11 hereby respectfully urge the United States Department of  
12 Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service to select the Rio Grande  
13 Valley region as the next expansion site for the Healthy Incentives  
14 Pilot program; and, be it further

15 RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward an  
16 official copy of this resolution to the U.S. secretary of  
17 agriculture.