



Corpus Christi Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

**RESOLUTION OF THE CCHCC BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGARDING PRE-K NOW AND EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT**

WHEREAS, the Corpus Christi Hispanic Chamber of Commerce serves the business community by developing positive change through active participation in job creation, economic development, education, and promoting growth of small, minority and women-owned businesses in the region, and

WHEREAS, workforce development continues to be one of the major concerns for business and industry, and

WHEREAS, tens of millions of "Baby Boomers" who have helped forge America as a leader in the global marketplace will leave the work force over the next decade, and

WHEREAS, America's business leaders and key educators agree such skills must be replaced with a generation of young adults whose math, science and technology skills will help our nation sustain its global leadership role, and

WHEREAS, a prominent study shows at least one in three Hispanic children begins kindergarten without the oral English skills needed to succeed in school and are more likely than Caucasians to begin school without fundamental reading and math skills, and

WHEREAS, the Hispanic educational achievement gap is likely to widen over ensuing years, and

WHEREAS, Hispanics by the year 2030 will comprise fully 25 percent of our nation's labor pool, and

WHEREAS, there is alarm over the fact that the high school dropout rate nationwide is 25 percent, while the rate for African Americans and Hispanics are nearly double that figure, and

WHEREAS, an increasing collection of business leaders and futurist voices are now lending strong support for programs that will provide access to high-quality early childhood education programs for all pre-kindergarten children,

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Corpus Christi Hispanic Chamber of Commerce calls upon it's state and federal lawmakers to join other concerned business and civic leaders across the nation to dramatically expand federal and state pre-kindergarten programs. It is in this country's long-term social and economic interests to dramatically expand early childhood development programs to include more children, with a concerted outreach to enroll Hispanic children.

Adopted by the Board of Directors of the Corpus Christi Hispanic Chamber of Commerce on this 15th of April 2008.

Rock Ruiz-Chairman of the Board