

CONLAMIC

Houston, Texas
October 13, 2006

WHEREAS, the future of our civic and faith communities relies on the adequate education of all children; and,

WHEREAS, a strong and effective system of public education is necessary for the protection and sustainability of our democratic government; and,

WHEREAS, we fully understand that a lack of an adequate education for our children breeds a host of social ills - not just for Latinos, but for all of society; and,

WHEREAS, we endorse and support the role of classroom teachers and encourage them to hold high their expectations for our Latino children while we ask for their support of this resolution; and,

WHEREAS, while the educational environment in Texas may have improved somewhat, our Latino children remain left behind by those who have the money to avail themselves of better educational options; and,

WHEREAS, many inner-city Texas legislators, including members of this Senate committee, exercise the right of school choice by refusing to send their own children to their assigned urban public schools; and,

WHEREAS, the ability of parents to choose the public or private school that is best for their child - school choice - changes lives and transforms the powerless into the powerful; and,

WHEREAS, we call upon this Senate body and all of our state legislators to provide our children most-in-need with broader educational opportunities through an urban school choice program; and,

WHEREAS, it is time for us to call upon our Democratic Party legislators - those charged with representing us in our inner-cities - to hear the voices of our parents and children over the voices of special interests.

Now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Coalition of Latino Clergy and Christian Leaders (CONLAMIC), represented in Texas by 393 Hispanic pastors and ministers, 350 churches, and 93,000 members call upon the Senate Education Committee to endorse the concept of an urban pilot school choice program; and,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that we commit ourselves to actively support, in any way in which we can, the efforts to pass this important legislation that provides Texas Latino children with the opportunity for a better education and a real opportunity to participate in the Promise of Texas.



Rev. Benjamin Perez



Rev. Sergio Salazar



Rev. Eliasar Rodriguez, Jr.



Rev. Javier Zuñiga



Rev. Miguel Rivera
President of the National Coalition of Latino Clergy & Christian Leaders (CONLAMIC)