



April 16, 2007

Judge JD Salinas
Hidalgo County
100 E. Cano
Edinburg, TX 78539

Dear Judge Salinas:

The Service Employees International Union is ready to assist you and the County in your efforts to provide affordable health care for your employees.

Currently, the County provides free health insurance coverage for individual employees but accessing the health plan is costly, and family coverage is unaffordable for most county employees. Therefore, many employees are forced to turn to state-subsidized health care or leave their children and/or spouses without insurance. Only 20 percent of employees enrolled in the county-sponsored PPO plans purchase coverage for other members of their family.¹

Access to health care is a great concern for Americans and SEIU has taken the leadership in working with our member's employers, across the country, to find cost-effective plans that benefit both parties.

Our International Union health care experts are prepared to delivering the following to Hidalgo County at no cost:

- *Conduct a healthcare plan analysis for the County;*
- *Provide the County information about how those plans analyzed would affect employees regarding services and out-of-pocket costs; and*
- *Assist in answering any healthcare questions that may come up for the County.*

Please let us know if you accept our offer to assist you in taking the leadership, not only in the Rio Grande Valley, but in the State of Texas, in providing affordable health care to your employees and their families.

Sincerely,

Hortencia Armendariz,
RGV Director

New Address: 5007 N. McColl

Cc:
Hidalgo County Commissioner Silvia Handy
Hidalgo County Commissioner Tito Palacios
Hidalgo County Commissioner Joe Flores
Hidalgo County Commissioner Oscar Garza

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¹ Finding #7, "Raising our Standards to Build A Better Hidalgo County: A proposal submitted by SEIU Texas to Raise Standards for County Workers and to Improve Quality of Public Services," 3 August 2006

