

STATE OF TEXAS           §  
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COUNTY OF HIDALGO    §

**RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO HB 3766 – RELATING TO TUITION AND FEE EXEMPTIONS AT PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR LEGACY STUDENTS WHO ARE ELIGIBLE FOR TUITION AND FEE EXEMPTIONS UNDER THE HAZLEWOOD LEGACY PROGRAM**

**WHEREAS,** H.B. 3766, ALSO KNOWN AS THE HAZLEWOOD LEGACY PRESERVATION ACT HAS BEEN INTRODUCED IN THE 85<sup>TH</sup> TEXAS LEGISLATURE; AND

**WHEREAS,** THIS LEGISLATION IF PASSED AND SIGNED INTO LAW SHALL NEGATIVELY IMPACT THOUSANDS OF VETERANS, MANY IN HIDALGO COUNTY, WHO HAVE RELIED HEAVILY ON THIS PROGRAM TO GET THEM OR THEIR DEPENDENTS THROUGH COLLEGE; AND

**WHEREAS;** ON JANUARY 9, 2017, THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT DENIED A REHEARING ON HARRIS V. HAHN, A FEDERAL CASE CHALLENGING THE CONSTITUTIONALITY OF THE STATE’S HAZLEWOOD ACT; AND

**WHEREAS,** THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE FIRST RECOGNIZED THE CRUCIAL ROLE THAT ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION CAN PLAY IN TRANSITIONING INTO CIVILIAN LIFE IN 1923 WHEN IT EXEMPTED HONORABLY DISCHARGED WORLD WAR I VETERANS FROM PAYING CERTAIN TUITION AND FEES AT PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES; AND

**WHEREAS,** THIS SUPPORT WAS EXTENDED WITH PASSAGE OF THE HAZLEWOOD ACT IN 1943, AND HAS SINCE BEEN EXTENDED TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE SACRIFICES THAT MILITARY FAMILIES ALSO MAKE IN SUPPORT OF THEIR SERVICE MEMBER; AND

**WHEREAS,** IN 2009, THE LEGISLATURE EXTENDED ITS PROMISE TO VETERAN’S CHILDREN IN THE HAZLEWOOD LEGACY PROGRAM RECOGNIZING THAT WHEN VETERANS SERVE THEIR FAMILIES ALSO SERVE; AND

**WHEREAS,** THE HAZLEWOOD ACT EXEMPTS TEXAS VETERANS, AND IN SOME CASES QUALIFIED SPOUSES OR DEPENDENTS, FROM UP TO 150 CREDIT HOURS OF TUITION AND FEES AT ANY OF THE STATE’S PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION; AND

**WHEREAS,** UNDER THE HAZELWOOD LEGACY PROGRAM, VETERANS CAN PASS ON THIS BENEFIT TO A QUALIFIED CHILD ENABLING GENERATIONS OF VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES TO ATTEND COLLEGE AND ACHIEVE A BETTER LIFE; AND

**WHEREAS,** H.B. 3766 WOULD REQUIRE A VETERAN TO HAVE SERVED OVER FOUR YEARS ON ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY BEFORE BECOMING ELIGIBLE FOR THE FREE TUITION BENEFIT; AND

**WHEREAS,** H.B. 3766 ALSO CALLS FOR THE FREE TUITION BENEFIT EXPIRING FIFTEEN YEARS AFTER THE VETERAN WAS HONORABLY DISCHARGED MEANING A

CHILD BORN AFTER HIS OR HER PARENT LEFT THE MILITARY WOULD NOT QUALIFY.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** THAT THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS DOES HEREBY EXPRESS ITS OPPOSITION TO HOUSE BILL 3766 AND ANY EFFORTS TO PASS LEGISLATION THAT WILL LIMIT THE ABILITY OF OUR VETERANS TO SEEK THE HIGHER EDUCATION THEY HAVE EARNED AND WHICH NEGATIVELY IMPACTS THEIR EFFORTS TO ENHANCE THEIR ABILITY TO PROVIDE FOR THEIR LOVED ONES. FURTHERMORE THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS EXPRESSES ITS DEEP APPRECIATION TO ALL LEGISLATORS WHO OPPOSE THIS UNSOUND MEASURE.

ADOPTED THIS 5<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF APRIL, 2017.

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RAMON GARCIA  
COUNTY JUDGE

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DAVID L. FUENTES  
COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 1

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EDUARDO "EDDIE" CANTU  
COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 2

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JOE M. FLORES  
COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 3

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JOSEPH PALACIOS  
COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 4

ATTEST:

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ARTURO GUAJARDO, JR.  
COUNTY CLERK