



Committee Highlights

On Thursday, March 21st, the Appropriations Committee and **Rep. Muñoz** unanimously approved **S.B. 1**, the state budget. This budget, overall, represents significant restoration of the cuts made last session. Representative Muñoz will continue to look for opportunities to add additional funding for critical programs in public education, health care, transportation, and other infrastructure programs. The following are highlights of the funding Rep. Muñoz and the Appropriations Committee crafted in SB 1:

- An increase of **\$2.5 billion for the Public Education Foundation School Program**. This action marks a significant step towards reversing the devastating cuts enacted during the last session.
- An increase to **6.6%** in the state contribution to the **Teachers Retirement System**. The state has a responsibility to its teachers & retired teachers, and this increase demonstrates our commitment to fulfill this responsibility.
- An increase in **TEXAS Grants** funding by **\$150 million**, a record level of funding for the program, which will continue to help our students from the Valley pursue higher education.
- **S.B. 1** increases the **Health and Human Services** budget by \$1.7 billion or 6.2% and will help fund projected caseloads for Medicaid, CHIP, and foster care programs.
- An increase from \$1.8 million to **\$2.9 million** in the Surplus Ag Grant to benefit **Food Banks**. The budget will almost double the amount of food distributed by the Food Bank of the Rio Grande Valley.
- **\$6 million** for debt service associated with **Economically Disadvantaged Assistance Program** grants which will allow the Water Development Board to issue **\$50 million** in additional bonds. This funding item is intended to fund waste water projects to benefit our South Texas communities.
- Representative Muñoz also **sponsored** and secured funding for a grant program for **non-profits providing after school programs**, such as the Boys and Girls Clubs.

"S.B. 1, as we voted it out of committee this week, marks significant progress in the restoration of the cuts made last session. Moving forward, I am committed to improving this budget at every opportunity, adding funding for Education, Health Care, and other critical services for the people of District 36."

Sergio Muñoz

Legislative Highlights

Representative Muñoz and the Texas House of Representatives unanimously passed **H.B. 1000**, which relates to **the creation of a new university in South Texas within The University of Texas System**. The combined assets of the new university will not only help it achieve **"emerging research university"** status but will also make it eligible for **Permanent University Funds**. **H.B. 1000** reorganizes Lower Rio Grande Valley institutions into a new university, bringing together the students, faculty, and assets of **UTPA, UTB, and the RAHC**, as well as a planned **medical school** and other programs of **The University of Texas Health Science Center--South Texas**.

This **momentous legislation** is a turning point for the Rio Grande Valley, allowing our talented young men and women of the RGV the opportunity, long denied to them, to attend a **Tier 1 University** located within the valley. The bill will also increase the residency slots for the **new medical school** and therefore be a major step towards addressing the lack of trained medical professionals within the Valley.



Constituents @ The Capitol



On March 18, 2013 employees and children of the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Rio Grande Valley visited the Texas Capitol and met with Representative Muñoz to discuss current legislation and the legislative process.

On March 21, 2013 Representative Muñoz recognized members and advocates of the Williams Syndrome Association on the house floor in order to increase awareness about the Neurodevelopmental disorder.



For additional information on the disorder visit www.williams-syndrome.org.