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January 29, 2013

Senator Lucio Applauds Governor Perry's Endorsement of a New South Texas University

AUSTIN - Today, Texas Governor Rick Perry called upon the legislature to pass legislation to give South Texas access to the Permanent University Fund. The Governor's endorsement was made during his [State of the State Address](#).

Senator Eddie Lucio, Jr. (D-Brownsville) offers the following statement in response:

"I want to thank Governor Perry for recognizing how vitally important it is to invest in the people of South Texas. I remain committed to filing legislation to create a new PUF-eligible regional university spanning the lower Rio Grande Valley. I, Senators Hinojosa and Zaffirini, and our colleagues in the House are close to introducing draft legislation.

"The creation of this new university is the next important step in improving access to quality health care education in the Valley. Throughout my legislative career, it has been the highest of privileges to have authored legislation creating the University of Texas Brownsville, the Regional Academic Health Center in Harlingen, and most recently, legislation authorizing the region's first four-year medical school. This Session, we have the opportunity to create a Tier One institution in the Valley with state-of-the-art facilities, top-notch research staff, and a future South Texas school of medicine. This is an opportunity Texas cannot afford to pass up.

"I whole-heartedly join the Governor in calling on the rest of the House and Senate to support the creation of this new university, and appreciate his encouragement."

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