

Resolution
by the Mexican American School Boards Association
on Support for the Honoring of César Chávez & Dolores Huerta
through a Student Holiday & Day of Community Service
in our Texas Public Schools

WHEREAS heroes and heroines have been celebrated throughout the ages and in all cultures for their courage, altruism and self-sacrifice for the greater good, often serving as moral examples of cherished values; and

WHEREAS federal and state holidays celebrate the virtues and values of individuals like Christopher Columbus, George Washington, Martin Luther King, Jr., and our U.S. Presidents, none of whom were women or members of the Latino community; and

WHEREAS César Chávez Day has been celebrated as a state holiday in Texas since 2000; and

WHEREAS César Chávez Day has now been declared a U.S. federal commemorative holiday honoring the birth and legacy of César Chávez, and is to be observed on March 31 of every year “with appropriate service, community and educational programs to honor César Chávez’s enduring legacy”; and

WHEREAS, as an outrageous expression of racist and bigoted anti-immigration policy, a reactionary movement sparked by a Texas legislator in the U.S. Congress in March 2018 sought to co-opt and rename César Chávez Day as “National Border Control Day”;

WHEREAS César Estrada Chávez and Dolores Clara Fernández Huerta are major historical icons and symbols of empowerment for the Latino community, with many paintings, murals, statues, memorials, ballads and songs in their honor, and with schools, streets, parks, libraries, university buildings and other public places named for them; and

WHEREAS César Chávez and Dolores Huerta worked together as labor and civil rights leaders for more than 30 years, and their names are synonymous with social justice; and

WHEREAS César Chávez and Dolores Huerta organized and co-founded the National Farm Workers Association, later known as the United Farm Workers, to empower field workers and to acquire labor contracts for them through such peaceful means as strikes and boycotts; and

WHEREAS César Chávez and Dolores Huerta led a diverse, national coalition in the struggle to achieve fair treatment, fair wages, medical coverage, pension benefits, human living conditions, and, perhaps most important, dignity and respect for hundreds of thousands of workers across the country; and

WHEREAS César Chávez and Dolores Huerta advocated for a wholistic education for our children, so that our children might not simply seek achievement and make progress as individuals, but that they might include in their ambitions the needs and aspirations of others; and

WHEREAS their slogan and rallying cry, *¡Sí, se puede!* [“Yes, it can be done!”], continues to inspire individuals and organizations throughout the nation and throughout the world to strive for societal change and social justice; and

WHEREAS the words and actions of César Chávez and Dolores Huerta continue to be a source of hope and pride for generations of Latinos; and

WHEREAS Latino students now comprise the majority of students in our Texas public schools, and English Language Learners are expected to be 25% of our Texas public school population by 2025; and

WHEREAS our Latino students and English Language Learners do not sufficiently see themselves reflected in the literature and in the holidays of our state and of our nation; and

WHEREAS equity, diversity, inclusion, community service, service learning and civic responsibility are important values cherished by our Texas public schools; and

WHEREAS the study of the lives, work and values of César Chávez and Dolores Huerta, and the performance of service in their honor, are means by which our Texas public school students might learn about history, self-determination, service to others, equality and justice, all while developing a sense of what it means to contribute to society and to understand the difference they can make in the lives of others; and

WHEREAS César Chávez himself once famously declared that “the end of all education should surely be service to others”;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mexican American School Boards Association supports and encourages all efforts by trustees and administrators throughout the state of Texas, to honor César Estrada Chávez and Dolores Clara Fernández Huerta, and the values they symbolize, through an annual student holiday and day of community service; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mexican American School Boards Association lauds and commends the trustees and administrators of the Fort Worth ISD for having made history on April 10, 2018 as the first school district in Texas to declare, beginning in 2019, a student holiday and day of community service in honor of César Estrada Chávez and Dolores Clara Fernández Huerta on the Monday that falls on or precedes March 31; and

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED that, beginning in 2019, the Mexican American School Boards Association henceforth declares the Monday that falls on or precedes March 31 as a holiday and day of community service to be observed by all in the organization and by all of good will, in honor of the life, work and values of César Estrada Chávez and Dolores Clara Fernández Huerta.

Approved this 23rd day of May, 2018.

Homero Garcia, President

Miguel “Mike” Rosales, Acting Secretary