

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The Secretary of Health and the Secretary of Foreign Relations of the United Mexican States, the California State Department of Health Services, the Health Commission of the Institute for Mexicans Abroad (IME), the United States-Mexico Border Health Commission, and the University of California, California-Mexico Health Initiative (CMHI), have recognized the necessity of improving access to health services to migrant/immigrant workers and their families in the State of California; and

WHEREAS, Mexican origin migrants/immigrants and their families have limited access to health care; and

WHEREAS, According to the 2000 United States Census, California is home to more than 8.45 million people of Mexican origin, 3.7 million of whom were born in Mexico; and

WHEREAS, Seventy-seven percent of Latinos in California are of Mexican origin; and

WHEREAS, Forty-four percent of the Mexican immigrants in the United States are in California; and

WHEREAS, Ninety-one percent of California's hired agricultural workers were born in Mexico; and

WHEREAS, improving the health of mobile populations requires multiple approaches in service design, delivery, funding priorities, and most fundamentally, requires strong binational commitment; and

WHEREAS, in October 2001, 2002, and 2003, the California-Mexico Health Initiative (CMHI), a program of the California Policy Research Center, the University of California Office of the President and partnering organizations convened the first three Binational Health Weeks, an unprecedented effort overseen by multi-agency task forces, which conducted health promotion activities involving over 500 private, local and state agencies and community-based organizations from 22 California counties and 8 Mexican states; and

WHEREAS, over 1,000 people participated in planning and implementing activities including the County of Fresno Department of Community Health, and over 70,000 people received direct health care services during the 2003 Binational Health Week; and

WHEREAS, Binational Health Week reflects coordinated efforts between California and Mexico to improve the quality of life of immigrant families by expanding their access to health care, increasing their health insurance coverage, and reducing their unmet health needs; and

WHEREAS, the California-Mexico Health Initiative (CMHI) operates in California, and in the states of origin of workers in Mexico; and


WHEREAS, Binational Health Week is a bilateral collaborative effort between CMHI and the Mexican Secretary of Health (SSA) and Foreign Affairs (SRE), with the active participation of private, public agencies and community-based organizations, and in California the Department of Health Services (DHS), border-health organizations, Mexican consulates, the Latino Legislative Caucus, community clinics and community-based organizations endorse this effort; and

WHEREAS, the objective of Binational Health Week is to generate a dynamic dialogue between California and Mexico representatives, and the CMHI vision is that "the health of California is the health of its immigrants"; and

WHEREAS, California and Mexico share a population, and a common goal to develop strategies to address this population's health.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fresno County Board of Supervisors hereby calls on all the residents of the County of Fresno to join in observing and participating in the 4th Annual Binational Health Week held during the week of October 11 to 17, 2004.

ADOPTED by the Fresno County Board of Supervisors this 5th day of October 2004.



CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS





