



AR 20 **In Support of Proposition Four, the Establishment of the National Research University Fund**

Author: Minator Azemi

Sponsors: Representatives Minator Azemi, Carly Castetter, Matt Daley, Patricia Estep, Sydney Fazende, Alex Ferraro, Madison Gardner, Alex Greenberg, Sarah Hobson, Timi Komonibo, Joseph Lee, Rachel Meyerson, Raj Peddaiahgari, Melessa Rodriguez, Justin Stein, Jimmy Talarico, John Woods, Thaddeus Woody

WHEREAS, The state of Texas currently has only three tier one universities, The University of Texas at Austin, Texas A&M University, and Rice University, while the state of California has nine, and the state of New York has sevenⁱ; and

WHEREAS, With only two public tier one universities for 24 million Texans, class sizes at The University of Texas at Austin and Texas A&M University are amongst the highest in the nationⁱⁱ; and

WHEREAS, Texas is losing 10,000 high school graduates a year to out-of-state doctoral-granting universities, while only gaining 4,000 from other states, resulting in a net loss of high school graduates in the state of Texasⁱⁱⁱ; and

WHEREAS, Currently, the state of Texas has seven emerging research universities, as defined by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board: Texas Tech University, The University of Texas at Arlington, The University of Texas at Dallas, The University of Texas at El Paso, The University of Texas at San Antonio, The University of Houston, and The University of North Texas^{iv}; and

WHEREAS, The 81st Legislature passed House Bill 51, which provides financial support for emerging research universities striving to become tier one universities^v; and

WHEREAS, In order to qualify for this funding, emerging research universities must raise private donations to be matched by the state, and meet a series of benchmarks and criteria used to identify tier one universities^{vi}; and

WHEREAS, Proposition 4 on the November 3, 2009 election ballot would amend the Texas Constitution to establish the National Research University Fund (NRUF), and give emerging research universities access to \$425 million to achieve tier one status^{vii}; and

WHEREAS, No new taxes will be required to establish the NRUF, as funding for it has already been allocated by the 81st Legislature^{viii}; now; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the 2009-2010 Student Government at The University of Texas at Austin supports the creation of additional tier one universities in the state of Texas.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the 2009-2010 Student Government at The University of Texas at Austin believes that the creation of additional tier one universities will help relieve inequalities in Higher Education in the state of Texas, while still maintaining high qualities of education at current tier one universities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the 2009-2010 Student Government at The University of Texas at Austin supports Proposition 4 on the November 3, 2009 election ballot, and the establishment of the National Research University Fund.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Board of Regents of the University of Texas System, Office of the President of the University of Texas at Austin, Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs, Office of the Dean of Students, Texans for Tier One, and any other appropriate parties.

ⁱ http://colleges.usnews.rankingsandreviews.com/best-colleges/national-universities-rankings/c_final_tier+1

ⁱⁱ <http://asumag.com/asu100/university/2009/enrollment/>

ⁱⁱⁱ <http://www.hro.house.state.tx.us/pdf/ba81r/hb0051.pdf#navpanes=0>

^{iv} <http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/index.cfm?objectid=7D748D59-CA31-6E94-E07982852D89C0A2&format=pdf>

^v <http://www.hro.house.state.tx.us/pdf/ba81r/hb0051.pdf#navpanes=0>

^{vi} <http://www.hro.house.state.tx.us/pdf/ba81r/hb0051.pdf#navpanes=0>

^{vii} <http://www.texansfortierone.com/tier-one-faqs/>

^{viii} <http://www.texansfortierone.com/tier-one-faqs/>