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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

April 7, 2011

GREATER HOUSTON PARTNERSHIP ENDORSES ADDITIONAL USAGE OF TEXAS' RAINY DAY FUND FUNDING DIRECTED TO EDUCATION AND MEDICAID

HOUSTON – The Greater Houston Partnership's Board of Directors discussed and passed a resolution calling for the additional usage of Texas' Rainy Day Fund at their board meeting on Wednesday, April 6, 2011. The resolution directly relates to GHP's legislative priority which calls for the protection of critical funding levels for Pre-K and K-12, with a focus on keeping Pre-K funded at current levels, to ensure all eligible children have access to quality education.

The resolution supports the use of \$3.2 billion from the Rainy Day Fund and the additional use of \$4 billion from the fund to be allocated toward the Foundation School Program and Medicaid for the 2012-2013 biennium. The Greater Houston Partnership believes that providing Texas' young people with the necessary resources to learn at a young age is essential for their future prosperity. Additional Medicaid funding would allow our state's underprivileged youth, senior citizens and disabled to receive the health care coverage they deserve.

The Board of Directors also addressed and supported the Governor's Omnibus Tort Reform legislation. It is GHP's position that implementation of the Governor's Omnibus Tort Reform package would discourage meritless lawsuits and allow for Texas to be an even more attractive destination for business.

Other resolutions passed by GHP's Board of Directors during the meeting Wednesday included:

- A resolution in support of a statewide smoking ban
- A resolution in support of higher education initiatives emphasizing TIER One programming.
- A resolution in support of charter schools having access to permanent school funding
- A resolution in support of greater public school flexibility
- A resolution in support of the TEXAS Grants Priority Model
- A resolution in support of the establishment of a nursing school at the University of St. Thomas in Houston

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The Greater Houston Partnership is the primary advocate of Houston's business community and is dedicated to building regional economic prosperity. It represents 10 counties: Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, San Jacinto and Waller. With more than 2,100 Member organizations, GHP represents approximately one-fifth of the region's work force. Visit GHP at houston.org.

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