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PRESS RELEASE

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**COUNTY ATTORNEY TO DISCUSS ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE
ISSUES AT UTEP**

On Tuesday November 20, 2007 El Paso County Attorney José R. Rodríguez will participate in a UTEP roundtable discussion to address the problems of access to healthcare in border communities such as El Paso. Rodríguez is currently Chairman of the Border Health Committee of the Texas Border Coalition, an organization of elected officials, chambers of commerce and cities and counties along the Texas, Mexican border.

It is estimated that El Paso County has one of the highest percentages of uninsured populations in the state of Texas, -about 35 %. The lack of health insurance coverage places adequate medical care out of reach for many poor families, and especially uninsured children who are more likely to be hospitalized for preventable illnesses than those with health coverage. All of this negatively impacts the economy and the health of residents in poor communities like El Paso

The Health Care Access Forum is being organized by UTEP's College of Health Sciences and the School of Nursing to discuss possible solutions to the health care crisis in our community.

Other participants in the forum include Herman Singh, MD, Chair of the El Paso Chamber of Commerce Health Care Council, Robert Galván, Dr. PH, Director of the El Paso City-County Health/Environmental District, and Teresa Cerqueira, PhD, Chief of the Pan-American Health Organization US-Mexico Field Office.

WHO: County Attorney José R. Rodríguez
WHAT: UTEP's Health Care Access Forum
WHEN: Tuesday November 20, 2007 at 4:30 p.m.
WHERE: UTEP's College of Health Sciences Auditorium
1101 N. Campbell St.

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