



James Cargas Will Work to Fully Fund Research at the Texas Medical Center

The Texas Medical Center (TMC) contains 49 world-class educational and research institutions and top-tier hospitals employing 93,000 Houstonians with an annual economic impact of \$14 billion for the Houston area. Its economic future and preeminence in scientific research have been in peril for almost a decade as federal funding for science has been below the rate of inflation since 2003.¹ During the current recession, it has become more acute as private donors are less able to make up the difference. Meanwhile, countries like China, India, Israel, Sweden, Japan and South Korea are allocating greater and greater public resources to research and development.

Funding science, however, is not throwing dollars away at academia's white towers. It's investing in Houston's local economy. In 2007, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) approved \$1.128 billion in grants for Texas. For each \$1.00 spent on Texas research, \$2.49 in economic activity was generated in Texas.² This investment created 20,148 jobs in Texas. Even more impressive, the federal government's \$3.8 billion investment from 1990 to 2003 in the Human Genome Project generated an economic impact of \$796 billion – a staggering 20,947% return on investment that created 310,000 jobs!³

Grants funded by NIH, the National Science Foundation, or one of the many other federal agencies overseeing scientific research, result in the creation and preservation of many knowledge-based and other jobs – making each grant a “shovel ready” project that immediately stimulates the local economy. Here in Houston, that means boosting primarily our Texas Medical Center located partially in the 7th Congressional District.

“Each science grant application is a shovel-ready job-creating project.”
James Cargas

Current Representative Has Consistently Voted Against Science and TMC

Realizing the importance of funding research, it is amazing that the current representative for Congressional District 7, and his Tea Party colleagues in the House, have voted against fully funding research at every opportunity. Here is a sample of John Culberson's votes against science in just one month – May 2010:

Vote Needed in Support of Scientists: YES

Culberson Vote: NO

Legislation authorizing \$86 billion to be spent over six years on research intended to make the U.S. more competitive in the world, including science, technology, engineering, and mathematics research. This vote was on the resolution allowing the bill to reach the House floor for a full vote on passage. (H.R. 5116, May 12, 2010, Roll Call 259)

¹ Congressional Research Service, “NIH: Organization, Funding and Congressional Issues” (Mar. 16, 2011).
² Families USA, “In Your Own Backyard: How NIH Funding Helps Your State's Economy” at 4-5 (June 2008).
³ Battelle Technology Partnership Practice, “Economic Impact of the Human Genome Project” (May 2011).

Vote Needed in Support of Scientists: YES

Culberson Vote: NO

An amendment to legislation authorizing funding for scientific and technological research, and establishing a “clean energy consortium” intended to further the commercialization of clean energy technologies. (H.R. 5116, May 12, 2010, Roll Call 264)

Vote Needed in Support of Science: NO

Culberson Vote: YES

An amendment to legislation authorizing funding for scientific and technological research that eliminated all new programs established by the bill (including a loan guarantee program for small manufacturers seeking to improve their competitiveness through technological innovation), froze spending on existing programs at 2010 levels, and prohibited federal funds from being used to view, download, or exchange pornography. (H.R. 5116, May 13, 2010, Roll Call 270)

Vote Needed in Support of Scientists: YES

Culberson Vote: NO

Legislation authorizing \$47 billion to be spent over three years on research intended to make the U.S. more competitive in the world, including science, technology, engineering, and mathematics research. (H.R. 5325, May 19, 2010, Roll Call 277)

Impact: Congress' failure to fully fund research in the past decade has cost the national economy \$195.3 billion in economic development and 1.2 million research jobs.

Vote Needed in Support of Scientists: NO

Culberson Vote: YES

An amendment that would have eliminated a provision establishing a pilot program in which the National Science Foundation would award cash prizes for innovative research. The provision was part of a bill intended to make the U.S. more competitive in the world. (H.R. 5116, May 28, 2010, Roll Call 326)

Vote Needed in Support of Scientists: YES

Culberson Vote: NO

Legislation authorizing \$86 billion to be spent over six years on research intended to make the U.S. more competitive in the world, including science, technology, engineering, and mathematics research. (H.R. 5116, May 28, 2010, Roll Call 332)

Cargas Will Vote for and Support Science and the Texas Medical Center

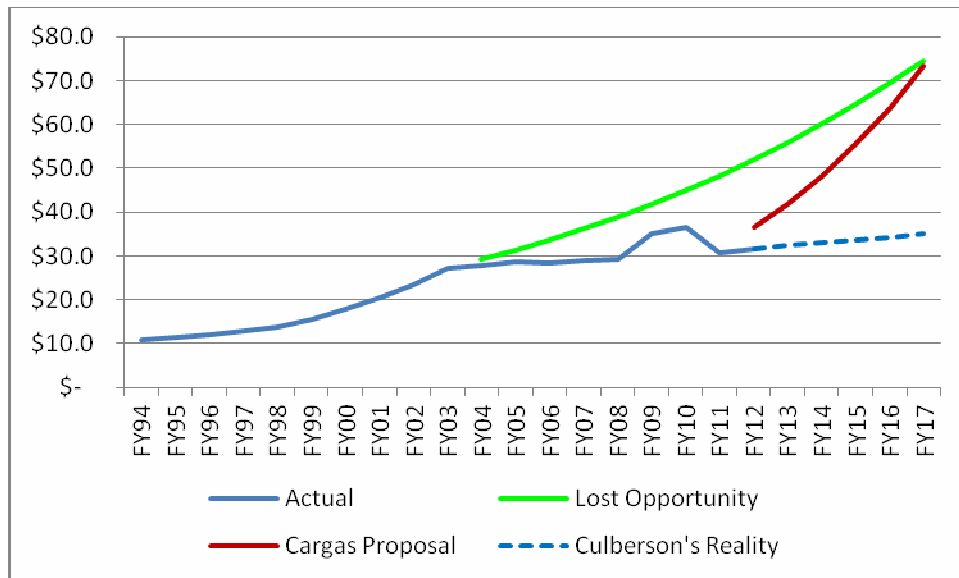
If elected, I will work to increase research funding 15% each year until funding is restored to a sustainable level, and then 7.5% annually thereafter.

As the below chart shows, nominal increases of 2% per year are not even keeping up with inflation. If Congress had maintained a sustainable 7.5% annual increase in NIH funding, the NIH fiscal year 2012 budget would be \$52.0 billion, not \$31.7 billion. This lost opportunity cost the national economy \$195.3 billion in economic development and 1.2 million research jobs.⁴ The impact has been felt here at the

⁴ From note 3, the difference between actual and sustainable funding from 2004 to 2012 is \$79.1 B. Multiplying this by 2.47 results in \$195.3 B in lost economic development, and dividing it by 65,107 results in 1.2 million jobs.

Texas Medical Center as scientists have been laid off or have left the state, and their labs closed. My proposal gets research funding back to sustainable levels boosting economic development and research jobs along the way.

James Cargas' Science Policy to Fully Fund NIH Research in 5 Years



The current short-sighted Tea Party approach of John Culberson has cost the Houston economy, the Texas Medical Center and all Americans dearly these past eleven years.

... And, Scientific Research Saves Lives!

The fact is that biomedical, bioengineering and scientific research also saves lives, cures diseases, improves our health, and increases our knowledge and understanding of our bodies and our world. It is difficult to put a valuation on the number of lives saved from advancements in science. However, if the economic benefit of new medicines, new treatments, new medical technologies, and the training of young researchers later hired by industry are taken into consideration, our public investment in research and the Texas Medical Center becomes exponential.

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