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## **The Government of Mexico welcomes the results of mediation in litigation against the Texas Vital Statistics Unit**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs welcomes the mediation agreement that was reached after litigation was initiated against the Texas Vital Statistics Unit because of its policy of refusing to issue birth certificates to minors born in Texas to undocumented parents.

Texas is the only state in the U.S. that does not accept passports without visas, or consular ID cards as valid documents of identification for obtaining birth certificates for minors born in the United States. Since it is impossible for undocumented parents to obtain another type of official ID, many children of undocumented parents do not have a U.S. birth certificate, despite having been born in the United States, something which entitles them to U.S. citizenship according to the constitution.

In August of last year, the Government of Mexico presented a brief of Amicus Curiae (Friend of the Court) in support of the law suit filed by the Texas Civil Rights Project and Texas Río Grande Legal Aid, because the state policy is a violation of the fundamental rights of our citizens and undermines the ability of their parents to show a legal connection to their children. Additionally, the Government of Mexico rejected the interference of a sub-national in the principle of reciprocity for identity documents issued to foreign nationals by its own government.

As a result of the mediation ordered by Federal Judge Robert Pitman, the state of Texas agreed to accept voter ID cards issued by Mexico's National Electoral Institute (INE) as official secondary identification documents in order to obtain birth certificates. The voter ID cards must be presented together with two supplementary documents from a list which grew from 18 to 28 documents as a result of the mediation. Those documents include religious registries, vehicle titles, leases, receipts for services such as electricity and telephone bills, and more.

The 11 Consulates of Mexico in Texas will undertake intense outreach efforts to make citizens aware of the agreements. We will also advise our citizens on the documents they will be able to present in order to register their minor children born in the state of Texas and obtain both certificates for their children.

Additionally, the Government of Mexico, through the Consulate General of Mexico in Austin, will continue emphasizing the need for state authorities to recognize and accept consular ID cards and Mexican passports without visas as valid, unique documents sufficient for identification in accordance with international practices and the highest standards of quality under which both documents are generated.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, through its Embassy and consular network, will continue to advocate for the rights of Mexicans in the United States and offer assistance and protection to all those who require it, regardless of their migratory status.