

By: Ogden

S.C.R. No. 1

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, In the Homeland Security Act of 2002, the United
2 States Congress recognized the importance of a university-based,
3 integrated approach to homeland security when it required the
4 secretary of the United States Department of Homeland Security to
5 establish university-based centers for homeland security; and

6 WHEREAS, Texas colleges and universities are at the forefront
7 of research on issues pertaining to homeland security, including
8 emergency response, food safety, transportation, border security,
9 information protection, and counterterrorism and have joined
10 together to maximize their abilities to meet state and national
11 homeland security needs; and

12 WHEREAS, The selection criteria established by congress for
13 university-based centers for homeland security include expertise
14 in training of first responders; response to incidents involving
15 weapons of mass destruction and biological warfare; emergency and
16 diagnostic medical services; chemical, biological, radiological,
17 and nuclear countermeasures and detection; animal and plant health
18 and diagnostics; food safety; water and wastewater operations; port
19 and waterway security; multi-modal transportation; information
20 security and information engineering; engineering; educational
21 outreach and technical assistance; border transportation and
22 security; and public policy; these criteria are epitomized by the
23 collective strengths of Texas colleges and universities; and

24 WHEREAS, Texas institutions of higher education have been

1 leaders on issues related to homeland security long before
2 September 11, 2001, due to Texas' unique possession of large
3 agricultural, petrochemical, maritime, and telecommunications
4 industries and major land and sea ports on the border with Mexico
5 and on the Gulf of Mexico, all of which are vulnerable to terrorist
6 attack; and

7 WHEREAS, The Homeland Security Act of 2002 required a
8 university-based center or centers for homeland security to be
9 established within one year of the date of enactment; now,
10 therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the 78th Legislature of the State of Texas,
12 2nd Called Session, hereby respectfully urge United States
13 Department of Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge to recognize
14 the expertise and resources represented by Texas colleges and
15 universities by designating a university-based center for homeland
16 security in the State of Texas; and, be it further

17 RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official
18 copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to
19 the secretary of the United States Department of Homeland Security,
20 and to all members of the Texas congressional delegation.