

1-1 By: Corte (Senate Sponsor - Ogden) H.C.R. No. 11
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House September 17, 2003;
1-3 September 17, 2003, read first time and referred to Committee on
1-4 Infrastructure Development and Security; September 22, 2003,
1-5 reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 7, Nays 0;
1-6 September 22, 2003, sent to printer.)

1-7 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1-8 WHEREAS, In the Homeland Security Act of 2002, the United
1-9 States Congress recognized the importance of a university-based,
1-10 integrated approach to homeland security when it required the
1-11 secretary of the United States Department of Homeland Security to
1-12 establish university-based centers for homeland security; and

1-13 WHEREAS, Texas colleges and universities are at the forefront
1-14 of research on issues pertaining to homeland security, including
1-15 emergency response, food safety, transportation, border security,
1-16 information protection, and counterterrorism and have joined
1-17 together to maximize their abilities to meet state and national
1-18 homeland security needs; and

1-19 WHEREAS, The selection criteria established by congress for
1-20 university-based centers for homeland security include expertise
1-21 in training of first responders; response to incidents involving
1-22 weapons of mass destruction and biological warfare; emergency and
1-23 diagnostic medical services; chemical, biological, radiological,
1-24 and nuclear countermeasures and detection; animal and plant health
1-25 and diagnostics; food safety; water and wastewater operations; port
1-26 and waterway security; multi-modal transportation; information
1-27 security and information engineering; engineering; educational
1-28 outreach and technical assistance; border transportation and
1-29 security; and public policy; these criteria are epitomized by the
1-30 collective strengths of Texas colleges and universities; and

1-31 WHEREAS, Texas institutions of higher education have been
1-32 leaders on issues related to homeland security long before
1-33 September 11, 2001, due to Texas' unique possession of large
1-34 agricultural, petrochemical, maritime, and telecommunications
1-35 industries and major land and sea ports on the border with Mexico
1-36 and on the Gulf of Mexico, all of which are vulnerable to terrorist
1-37 attack; and

1-38 WHEREAS, The Homeland Security Act of 2002 required a
1-39 university-based center or centers for homeland security to be
1-40 established within one year of the date of enactment; now,
1-41 therefore, be it

1-42 RESOLVED, That the 78th Legislature of the State of Texas,
1-43 3rd Called Session, hereby respectfully urge United States
1-44 Department of Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge to recognize
1-45 the expertise and resources represented by Texas colleges and
1-46 universities by designating a university-based center for homeland
1-47 security in the State of Texas; and, be it further

1-48 RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official
1-49 copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to
1-50 the secretary of the United States Department of Homeland Security,
1-51 and to all members of the Texas congressional delegation.

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