



1 industrial sources; according to the United States Health Resources  
2 and Services Administration, 122 million liters of raw sewage are  
3 dumped into the Tijuana, New, and Rio Grande rivers daily, and a  
4 series of studies conducted by several United States and Mexican  
5 agencies, including the Texas Department of Health, monitored sites  
6 along the Rio Grande and found chemicals such as PCBs, cyanide,  
7 mercury, and lead at significant levels; and

8 WHEREAS, Beyond the effects of population, poverty, and  
9 pollution, many of the health concerns endemic to the border region  
10 are exacerbated by a lack of access to primary care and preventive  
11 medicine; uneven distribution of hospitals and physicians,  
12 inadequate transportation, limited immunizations, and a shortage  
13 of bilingual health care providers contribute to otherwise  
14 preventable health problems; and

15 WHEREAS, Several standard health indicators reflect the  
16 shortcomings of the health care system along the border; the  
17 incidence of hepatitis A and tuberculosis is two to three times the  
18 national average, and measles, HIV/AIDS, and various infectious  
19 diseases disproportionately threaten the population of the border  
20 region as compared to the United States as a whole; and

21 WHEREAS, Due to these and many other concerns and in an effort  
22 to provide international leadership to optimize health and quality  
23 of life along the United States-Mexico border, an agreement between  
24 the United States secretary of health and human services and the  
25 secretary of health of the United Mexican States created the United  
26 States-Mexico Border Health Commission in 2000; and

27 WHEREAS, The crises of health along the border are myriad and

1 profound, with complications arising from cultural, economic, and  
2 geographic conditions unique to the region; although the United  
3 States-Mexico Border Health Commission has made great progress in  
4 promoting health and reducing health disparities, strategic  
5 planning and comprehensive study are critical for the commission to  
6 fulfill its mission to provide the tools necessary for the future  
7 well-being of the border population; now, therefore, be it

8       RESOLVED, That the 78th Legislature of the State of Texas  
9 hereby memorialize the Congress of the United States to request  
10 that the United States Department of Health and Human Services fund  
11 a benchmark study coordinated by the United States-Mexico Border  
12 Health Commission and conducted by universities from the border  
13 area of each of the adjoining border states in both the United  
14 States and the United Mexican States to engage each state's health  
15 policy with respect to the border health issues and goals outlined  
16 in Healthy Border 2010/Frontera Saludable 2010, a border-wide  
17 program of health promotion and disease prevention that defines an  
18 agenda for improving health in the United States-Mexico border  
19 region; and, be it further

20       RESOLVED, That the study also address early intervention and  
21 preventive strategies; water and wastewater issues; immunization;  
22 behavioral health issues, including nutrition and exercise;  
23 elimination of health disparities among the border population; and  
24 response to disaster and disease outbreak; and, be it further

25       RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official  
26 copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to  
27 the speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the

1 senate of the United States Congress, to the secretary of the United  
2 States Department of Health and Human Services, and to all the  
3 members of the Texas delegation to the congress with the request  
4 that this resolution be officially entered in the Congressional  
5 Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of  
6 America.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of the Senate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.C.R. No. 21 was adopted by the Senate  
on May 1, 2003.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.C.R. No. 21 was adopted by the House  
on May 23, 2003.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor