

By: Alonzo

H.R. No. 188

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Texans will benefit greatly if the United States
2 Congress enacts the Secure America and Orderly Immigration Act by
3 United States Senators John McCain and Edward Kennedy and
4 Congressmen Jim Kolbe, Jeff Flake, and Luis Gutierrez to strengthen
5 the economy, improve national security, and protect the labor
6 rights of all workers; and

7 WHEREAS, Offering a legal vehicle for new workers to enter
8 the country when employers are unable to find United States
9 workers, the legislation also provides a mechanism to bring
10 existing undocumented workers out of the shadows and toward a path
11 of citizenship; and

12 WHEREAS, Introduced in the United States Senate as S. 1033
13 and in the U.S. House of Representatives as H.R. 2330, the
14 bipartisan legislation supported by business and trade
15 associations, organized labor, and immigration reform advocates
16 would make available two new types of work visas; and

17 WHEREAS, The Essential Worker Visa would be portable and
18 valid for three years and would allow foreign workers to enter and
19 fill available jobs that require few or no skills if applicants have
20 a job waiting in the United States, pay all application fees, and
21 clear all security, medical, and other checks; and

22 WHEREAS, Secondly, a six-year work visa designed for
23 undocumented workers already in the United States would allow
24 travel abroad and family reunification and be offered to applicants

1 who pay a \$1,000 fine, show work history and a clean criminal
2 record, and submit to fingerprinting and background checks; and

3 WHEREAS, To qualify for permanent United States resident
4 status, workers would be required to meet a future work
5 requirement, clear additional security and background checks, pay
6 substantial fines and application fees as well as back taxes, and
7 meet prescribed English and civics requirements; and

8 WHEREAS, The new visas would be difficult to counterfeit and
9 contain biometric, machine-readable, and tamper-resistant
10 information; additional security measures in the legislation
11 include implementation of a National Strategy for Border Security
12 and establishment of a Border Security Advisory Committee; and

13 WHEREAS, The Secure America and Orderly Immigration Act
14 resembles policy that President George W. Bush outlined more than a
15 year ago to ensure that "employers who are looking for workers are
16 able to find people who are willing to do the jobs they have in a
17 legal way"; and

18 WHEREAS, Recognizing that Americans have benefited from the
19 hard work of millions of undocumented workers who have endured
20 lives of fear and discrimination, the Act's reforms reflect the
21 American principles of humanity, fairness, and equality; now,
22 therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
24 Legislature, 2nd Called Session, hereby respectfully urge the
25 Congress of the United States to enact the bipartisan Secure
26 America and Orderly Immigration Act, S. 1033 by United States
27 Senators John McCain and Edward Kennedy or H.R. 2330 by Congressmen

1 Jim Kolbe, Jeff Flake, and Luis Gutierrez; and, be it further

2 RESOLVED, That the chief clerk of the Texas House of
3 Representatives forward official copies of this resolution to the
4 president of the United States, to the speaker of the house of
5 representatives and the president of the senate of the United
6 States Congress, and to all the members of the Texas delegation to
7 the congress with the request that this resolution be officially
8 entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of
9 the United States of America.