

By: Chavez

H.C.R. No. 13

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1           WHEREAS, Canadian travelers to the United States may stay in  
2 this country for up to six months, while Mexican visitors only  
3 recently gained the right to a 30-day stay with a laser visa under  
4 an expansion of the United States Visitor and Immigrant Status  
5 Indicator Technology (US-VISIT) program, which previously limited  
6 such stays to 72-hours and no more than 25 miles inside the U.S.  
7 border; and

8           WHEREAS, Aside from adversely affecting international  
9 goodwill between the United States and its neighbors to the north  
10 and south by the disparate treatment of their citizens, this  
11 disparity also has a negative impact on the economic stability of  
12 the U.S.-Mexico border; and

13           WHEREAS, If Mexican tourists, businesspersons, and other  
14 short-term travelers received the same opportunities to visit and  
15 do business in the United States as their Canadian counterparts, it  
16 would facilitate business between the United States and Mexico,  
17 boosting the U.S. and Texas economies; and

18           WHEREAS, El Paso and other Texas border communities that  
19 directly benefit from cross-border travel may expect a dramatic  
20 increase in local economic development if the length of stay for  
21 Mexican nationals with laser visas is extended from 30 days to six  
22 months; and

23           WHEREAS, Local community leaders attending a recent  
24 gathering of the U.S. Hispanic Chambers of Commerce were assured by

1 U.S. Department of Homeland Security Undersecretary Asa Hutchinson  
2 that the Bush Administration supports treating all international  
3 guests equally; and

4 WHEREAS, U.S. Senator John Cornyn and U.S. Representative  
5 Ruben Hinojosa, both of Texas, introduced legislation in the 108th  
6 Congress (S.1908 and H.R. 3488, respectively) to allow Mexican  
7 nationals currently admissible under laser visa border crossing  
8 regulations to enter the United States as six-month nonimmigrant  
9 visitors; now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the 79th Legislature of the State of Texas  
11 hereby respectfully urge the Congress of the United States to  
12 support parity for Mexican visitors to the United States by  
13 enacting legislation that would allow them the same six-month  
14 length of stay afforded to Canadian travelers; and, be it further

15 RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official  
16 copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to  
17 the speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the  
18 senate of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the  
19 Texas delegation to the congress with the request that this  
20 resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a  
21 memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.