

1-1 By: Chavez, et al. H.C.R. No. 13
1-2 (Senate Sponsor - Lucio)
1-3 (In the Senate - Received from the House April 25, 2005;
1-4 April 26, 2005, read first time and referred to Committee on
1-5 International Relations and Trade; May 6, 2005, reported favorably
1-6 by the following vote: Yeas 7, Nays 0; May 6, 2005, sent to
1-7 printer.)

1-8 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1-9 WHEREAS, Canadian travelers to the United States may stay in
1-10 this country for up to six months, while Mexican visitors only
1-11 recently gained the right to a 30-day stay with a laser visa under
1-12 an expansion of the United States Visitor and Immigrant Status
1-13 Indicator Technology (US-VISIT) program, which previously limited
1-14 such stays to 72 hours and no more than 25 miles inside the U.S.
1-15 border; and

1-16 WHEREAS, Aside from adversely affecting international
1-17 goodwill between the United States and its neighbors to the north
1-18 and south by the disparate treatment of their citizens, this
1-19 disparity also has a negative impact on the economic stability of
1-20 the U.S.-Mexico border; and

1-21 WHEREAS, If Mexican tourists, businesspersons, and other
1-22 short-term travelers received the same opportunities to visit and
1-23 do business in the United States as their Canadian counterparts, it
1-24 would facilitate business between the United States and Mexico,
1-25 boosting the U.S. and Texas economies; and

1-26 WHEREAS, El Paso and other Texas border communities that
1-27 directly benefit from cross-border travel may expect a dramatic
1-28 increase in local economic development if the length of stay for
1-29 Mexican nationals with laser visas is extended from 30 days to six
1-30 months; and

1-31 WHEREAS, Local community leaders attending a recent
1-32 gathering of the U.S. Hispanic Chambers of Commerce were assured by
1-33 U.S. Department of Homeland Security Undersecretary Asa Hutchinson
1-34 that the Bush Administration supports treating all international
1-35 guests equally; and

1-36 WHEREAS, U.S. Senator John Cornyn and U.S. Representative
1-37 Ruben Hinojosa, both of Texas, introduced legislation in the 108th
1-38 Congress (S.1908 and H.R. 3488, respectively) to allow Mexican
1-39 nationals currently admissible under laser visa border crossing
1-40 regulations to enter the United States as six-month nonimmigrant
1-41 visitors; now, therefore, be it

1-42 RESOLVED, That the 79th Legislature of the State of Texas
1-43 hereby respectfully urge the Congress of the United States to
1-44 support parity for Mexican visitors to the United States by
1-45 enacting legislation that would allow them the same six-month
1-46 length of stay afforded to Canadian travelers; and, be it further

1-47 RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official
1-48 copies of this resolution to the U.S. Department of Homeland
1-49 Security and U.S. Department of State and to the president of the
1-50 United States, to the speaker of the house of representatives and
1-51 the president of the senate of the United States Congress, and to
1-52 all the members of the Texas delegation to the congress with the
1-53 request that this resolution be officially entered in the
1-54 Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United
1-55 States of America.

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