

By: Allen of Dallas

H.C.R. No. 144

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, On September 11, 2001, acts of treacherous violence
2 were committed against the United States and its citizens by
3 foreign terrorists; these cowardly acts rendered it both necessary
4 and appropriate that the United States exercise its right to
5 self-defense and protect its citizens at home and abroad; and

6 WHEREAS, Terrorism poses a fundamental threat to the ordered
7 liberty that is the essence of our constitutional democracy; as a
8 key part of our nation's response to these terrorist acts, the
9 United States Congress spent six weeks negotiating and debating law
10 enforcement provisions that protect our civil liberties and help
11 detect, disrupt, and prevent further terrorism; and

12 WHEREAS, With broad, bipartisan support, the congress passed
13 the USA PATRIOT Act on October 25, 2001, and the Act was signed into
14 law by President George W. Bush the following day; and

15 WHEREAS, Passage of the USA PATRIOT Act strengthened the
16 nation's criminal laws against terrorism, enhanced the capacity of
17 law enforcement to gather and analyze intelligence on terrorist
18 activities, and aided law enforcement agencies in their efforts to
19 defend against sophisticated tactics employed by modern terrorists
20 by updating the law to reflect new technologies and new threats; and

21 WHEREAS, The USA PATRIOT Act has accomplished these goals
22 without altering the tangible legal protections that exist to
23 preserve the privacy of law-abiding citizens; and

24 WHEREAS, The United States Congress, in performing its

1 constitutional role of oversight, has found no instance of any
2 abuse under the USA PATRIOT Act and, in fact, has praised the United
3 States Department of Justice for its efforts to fight terrorism and
4 defend the lives and liberties of the American people; the security
5 provided by the USA PATRIOT Act has been a successful, necessary,
6 and constitutionally appropriate means to the greater end of
7 liberty for all Americans; now, therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the 79th Legislature of the State of Texas
9 hereby express its support for the president of the United States
10 and the congress in their continued efforts to defend the homeland
11 against further terrorist attacks; and, be it further

12 RESOLVED, That the 79th Legislature of the State of Texas
13 hereby earnestly and resolutely express its support for the USA
14 PATRIOT Act and its vital role in aiding the president and congress
15 in their effort to fight terrorism while preserving American civil
16 liberties in a way that is respectful of the legal and
17 constitutional safeguards of those liberties; and, be it further

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

25 Expressing legislative support for the USA PATRIOT Act.