S.C.R. No. 2

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Created in 1999 to help state jurisdictions prepare for a national emergency, the Strategic National Stockpile is a repository of pharmaceuticals and medical supplies administered jointly by the United States Department of Homeland Security and United States Department of Health and Human Services; and

WHEREAS, Currently, if an act of bioterrorism occurs within Mexico near the United States border, it is up to each United States border state, including Texas, to request and deploy the Strategic National Stockpile across the border to protect the citizens of the state; and

WHEREAS, Procedures for deploying Strategic National Stockpile assets require the affected state governor's office to request deployment from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or the Department of Homeland Security; although the assets are transferred to state and local authorities once they arrive at the designated receiving and storage site in the affected state, the stockpile materials remain a federal asset; and

WHEREAS, Deployment, which may include a mass antibiotic dispensing operation, requires substantial state and local resources to receive, secure, and distribute Strategic National Stockpile assets; staging and dispensing the assets in another country requires a coordinated, comprehensive approach that is best

1 addressed by the federal government; and

WHEREAS, The Homeland Security Act of 2002 charged the United States Department of Homeland Security with defining the goals and performance requirements of the Strategic National Stockpile program as well as managing the actual deployment of assets; critical to the success of this initiative is ensuring capacity at the federal level to respond to binational public health emergencies; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 79th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby respectfully request the Congress of the United States to enact legislation to provide for federal deployment of the Strategic National Stockpile within Mexico, provided that the Mexican government approves said request pursuant to treaties and other agreements with the United States; and, be it further

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

President of the Senate	Speaker of the House
I hereby certify that S.C.R.	No. 2 was adopted by the Senate
on March 31, 2005.	
	Secretary of the Senate
I hereby certify that S.C.R.	No. 2 was adopted by the House
on May 20, 2005.	
	Chief Clerk of the House
Approved:	
Date	
Governor	