

By: Staples

S.C.R. No. 2

1 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

1 addressed by the federal government; and

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

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