

By: Staples

S.C.R. No. 2

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Created in 1999 to help state and local
2 jurisdictions prepare for a national emergency, the Strategic
3 National Stockpile (SNS) is a repository of pharmaceuticals and
4 medical supplies administered jointly by the U.S. Department of
5 Homeland Security (DHS) and U.S. Department of Health and Human
6 Services; and

7 WHEREAS, Currently, if an act of bioterrorism occurs within
8 Mexico near the United States border, it is up to each U.S. border
9 state, including Texas, to request and deploy the SNS across the
10 border to protect the citizens of the state; and

11 WHEREAS, Procedures for deploying SNS assets require the
12 affected state governor's office to request deployment from the
13 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or DHS; the assets are
14 transferred to state and local authorities once they arrive at the
15 designated receiving and storage site in the affected state; and

16 WHEREAS, Deployment, which may include a mass antibiotic
17 dispensing operation, requires substantial state and local
18 resources to receive, secure, and distribute SNS assets; staging
19 and dispensing the assets in another country requires a
20 coordinated, comprehensive approach that is best addressed by the
21 federal government; and

22 WHEREAS, The Homeland Security Act of 2002 charged DHS with
23 defining the goals and performance requirements of the SNS program
24 as well as managing the actual deployment of assets; critical to the

1 success of this initiative is ensuring capacity at the federal
2 level to respond to binational public health emergencies; now,
3 therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, That the 79th Legislature of the State of Texas,
5 hereby respectfully request the Congress of the United States to
6 enact legislation to provide for federal deployment of the
7 Strategic National Stockpile within Mexico to protect U.S. border
8 states; and, be it further

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