

By: Martinez

H.C.R. No. 125

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, In 1994, the Violent Crime Control and Law
2 Enforcement Act created the Community Oriented Policing Services
3 (COPS) program and for more than a decade the COPS initiative has
4 awarded more than \$11 billion to over 13,000 agencies across the
5 country; in the last six years, however, the COPS program has
6 suffered numerous cuts in funding, threatening to reverse the
7 improvements in law enforcement credited to the program at a time
8 when national security is a concern at all levels of government; and

9 WHEREAS, The recently filed Prosperous and Secure Neighbor
10 Alliance Act of 2007 would allocate \$170 million to the United
11 Mexican States to professionalize the Mexican police force for
12 patrols along the U.S.-Mexico border, sending a significant portion
13 of the limited federal aid available to Mexico, further
14 jeopardizing the efforts of state and local law enforcement
15 agencies that depend on continued funding through the COPS program;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, Among the initiatives established under the COPS
18 program is the universal hiring program that resulted in the hiring
19 or redeployment of more than 118,000 law enforcement officers in
20 over 12,000 enforcement agencies nationwide and training
21 initiatives that have helped deliver to more than 340,000 officers
22 classes on topics ranging from ethics to terrorism; in offering
23 grants to implement innovative programs such as these, COPS has
24 played a significant role in reducing the crime rate in many areas

1 of the country; but recent cuts to the program have negatively
2 impacted recipient agencies across the country and specifically
3 along the Texas-Mexico border where Texas law officers are
4 consistently understaffed, underpaid, and overworked; and

5 WHEREAS, While the United States must rely on neighboring
6 nations to do their part to maintain border security, it is equally
7 crucial that programs such as COPS continue to receive the funding
8 necessary to provide adequate resources to safeguard our borders
9 and achieve a level of security expected by the American people;
10 unfortunately, sending funds to Mexico and at the same time
11 reducing federal assistance locally substantially imperils this
12 worthy goal; now, therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the 80th Legislature of the State of Texas
14 hereby respectfully urge the Congress of the United States to
15 restore full funding to the Community Oriented Policing Services
16 program to assist Texas law enforcement in patrolling the border
17 before authorizing funding for the police force of the United
18 Mexican States; and, be it further

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