

1-1 By: Martinez, Guillen (Senate Sponsor - Lucio) H.C.R. No. 125
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House April 16, 2007;
1-3 April 17, 2007, read first time and referred to Committee on
1-4 Transportation and Homeland Security; May 8, 2007, reported
1-5 favorably by the following vote: Yeas 8, Nays 0; May 8, 2007, sent
1-6 to printer.)

1-7 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1-8 WHEREAS, In 1994, the Violent Crime Control and Law
1-9 Enforcement Act created the Community Oriented Policing Services
1-10 (COPS) program and for more than a decade the COPS initiative has
1-11 awarded more than \$11 billion to over 13,000 agencies across the
1-12 country; in the last six years, however, the COPS program has
1-13 suffered numerous cuts in funding, threatening to reverse the
1-14 improvements in law enforcement credited to the program at a time
1-15 when national security is a concern at all levels of government; and

1-16 WHEREAS, The recently filed Prosperous and Secure Neighbor
1-17 Alliance Act of 2007 would allocate \$170 million to the United
1-18 Mexican States to professionalize the Mexican police force for
1-19 patrols along the U.S.-Mexico border, sending a significant portion
1-20 of the limited federal aid available to Mexico, further
1-21 jeopardizing the efforts of state and local law enforcement
1-22 agencies that depend on continued funding through the COPS program;
1-23 and

1-24 WHEREAS, Among the initiatives established under the COPS
1-25 program is the universal hiring program that resulted in the hiring
1-26 or redeployment of more than 118,000 law enforcement officers in
1-27 over 12,000 enforcement agencies nationwide and training
1-28 initiatives that have helped deliver to more than 340,000 officers
1-29 classes on topics ranging from ethics to terrorism; in offering
1-30 grants to implement innovative programs such as these, COPS has
1-31 played a significant role in reducing the crime rate in many areas
1-32 of the country; but recent cuts to the program have negatively
1-33 impacted recipient agencies across the country and specifically
1-34 along the Texas-Mexico border where Texas law officers are
1-35 consistently understaffed, underpaid, and overworked; and

1-36 WHEREAS, While the United States must rely on neighboring
1-37 nations to do their part to maintain border security, it is equally
1-38 crucial that programs such as COPS continue to receive the funding
1-39 necessary to provide adequate resources to safeguard our borders
1-40 and achieve a level of security expected by the American people;
1-41 unfortunately, sending funds to Mexico and at the same time
1-42 reducing federal assistance locally substantially imperils this
1-43 worthy goal; now, therefore, be it

1-44 RESOLVED, That the 80th Legislature of the State of Texas
1-45 hereby respectfully urge the Congress of the United States to
1-46 restore full funding to the Community Oriented Policing Services
1-47 program to assist Texas law enforcement in patrolling the border
1-48 before authorizing funding for the police force of the United
1-49 Mexican States; and, be it further

1-50 RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official
1-51 copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to
1-52 the speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the
1-53 senate of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the
1-54 Texas delegation to the congress with the request that this
1-55 resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a
1-56 memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

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