

By: Swinford

H.C.R. No. 194

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The federal government's failure to secure the
2 border and enforce immigration laws has placed the burden of
3 controlling the Texas-Mexico border and funding the costs of
4 illegal immigration on the State of Texas and local governments;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Although border security is a federal
7 responsibility, the federal government has abdicated this
8 important duty, leaving the Texas-Mexico border unsecured,
9 unprotected, and vulnerable to exploitation by terrorists and
10 criminal organizations; and

11 WHEREAS, An unsecured and unprotected border provides a safe
12 haven for drug traffickers, human smugglers, and the growing sex
13 slave industry; terrorist groups have been known to use these
14 criminal enterprises to facilitate terrorist activities and
15 operations; and

16 WHEREAS, The federal government's inaction on illegal
17 immigration is further demonstrated by its failures to create a
18 guest worker program and to stimulate the Mexican economy,
19 initiatives that would address the influx of illegal labor into
20 this country; as a result, illegal immigration costs push the
21 limits of state and local budgets; and

22 WHEREAS, These costs are suffered at the local level through
23 overcrowded schools, unpaid medical services at hospitals, the
24 deterioration of once-thriving neighborhoods, and the depression

1 of wages for hardworking domestic laborers; similarly, at the state
2 level, budget writers must consider the impact of illegal
3 immigration on the provision of state services; and

4 WHEREAS, Paragraph 2, Article VI, United States
5 Constitution, establishes the U.S. Constitution, federal statutes,
6 and U.S. treaties as "the supreme law of the land"; this
7 "supremacy" clause preempts states from creating policies to reform
8 immigration and border security law even if the federal government
9 has neglected its duty to address these issues; and

10 WHEREAS, States are increasingly burdened by the
11 disingenuous methods and strategies used by the executive branch
12 and the United States Congress to delay action on a fair and
13 commonsense solution to illegal immigration and border security;
14 now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the 80th Legislature of the State of Texas
16 hereby express dissatisfaction with the federal government's
17 failure to secure the border and enforce immigration laws; and, be
18 it further

19 RESOLVED, That the legislature hereby declares that the state
20 will not support gamesmanship and deal-making as a substitute for
21 an equitable and reasonable resolution to this important issue.