

By: Gonzalez Toureilles

H.C.R. No. 281

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, More than 1,200 miles of the United States' southern
2 border runs between Texas and the United Mexican States; this
3 geographic proximity and the long common history of the region's
4 inhabitants have fostered many shared cultural values that have
5 shaped the identity of the entire state; and

6 WHEREAS, More than 3.5 million foreign-born residents from
7 all over the world call Texas "home," and immigrants make up nearly
8 16 percent of the state's total population, contributing
9 significantly to the Texas economy; and

10 WHEREAS, Notwithstanding the obvious contributions by
11 immigrants to Texas and the nation as a whole, recent international
12 events have appropriately propelled border security issues to the
13 forefront of state and federal government agendas; the resulting
14 discourse has included the issue of immigration policy,
15 understandably an emotionally charged issue; and

16 WHEREAS, Too often these discussions devolve into little more
17 than blaming sundry social ills on a group vaguely identified as
18 "illegal aliens"; this term is clearly considered a pejorative by
19 native-born citizens and naturalized citizens alike, prompting
20 organizations such as the National Association of Hispanic
21 Journalists and major newspapers to avoid its usage altogether; and

22 WHEREAS, Furthermore, the term inaccurately describes the
23 individuals in question; under current United States immigration
24 law, being an undocumented immigrant is not a crime but a civil

1 violation; in fact, approximately 40 percent of undocumented
2 immigrants are guilty only of overstaying their visas and, thus,
3 have not illegally immigrated; and

4 WHEREAS, As a nation of immigrants, and given the importance
5 of the international security issues currently before our state and
6 nation, it is incumbent on elected officials at all levels of
7 government to avoid obfuscation when discussing border security and
8 immigration policy, and it would best facilitate informed debate if
9 inaccurate terms such as "illegal alien" were omitted from official
10 use, including statutes; now, therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the 80th Legislature of the State of Texas
12 respectfully request that the United States Congress and the Texas
13 Legislature adopt the terms "undocumented worker," "undocumented
14 person," and "undocumented immigrant" as replacements for the term
15 "illegal alien" in official discourse; and, be it further

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