

By: Anchia

H.C.R. No. 95

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The Texas portion of the border between the United  
2 States and Mexico comprises more than half of the nearly 2,000-mile  
3 boundary between the two countries; as a result of this proximity,  
4 the State of Texas is uniquely aware of the importance of the border  
5 to the security of the nation as a whole and sensitive to the impact  
6 of immigration on the economic and social well-being of both  
7 countries; and

8 WHEREAS, The Office of the Inspector General at the  
9 Department of Homeland Security estimates the costs of detaining  
10 undocumented immigrants to be \$1.7 billion annually, and current  
11 research indicates that detaining immigrant and asylum-seeking  
12 families does not deter illegal immigration; and

13 WHEREAS, In 2006, Homeland Security re-opened the T. Don  
14 Hutto Residential Facility in Taylor, Texas, operated by private  
15 prison firm Corrections Corporation of America, for the purpose of  
16 detaining immigrant and asylum-seeking families who are awaiting  
17 immigration proceedings; Of the up to 250 individuals detained in  
18 the facility's family unit, at least half are children; and

19 WHEREAS, Children who have had no decisive role in their  
20 migration or flight should not be exposed to unnecessary trauma,  
21 and should not be detained in a regimented facility run by a  
22 for-profit prison corporation with significant restrictions on  
23 their liberty while their parents await immigration proceedings;  
24 and

1 WHEREAS, The United States House and Senate committees on  
2 appropriations has each expressed concern about children of  
3 families in immigrant detention centers, and has stated that family  
4 detention should be the last alternative and not the first; and

5 WHEREAS, Studies have shown high rates of immigration court  
6 appearances for people in supervised release programs; A valid  
7 alternative to detaining immigrant families would be to release and  
8 reunite these children and their parents but monitor them under  
9 supervised release programs, thereby reducing the emotional  
10 consequences to young children; and

11 WHEREAS, Supervised release programs cost American taxpayers  
12 significantly less than detention; Considering the long-term  
13 consequences of family detention for children and the nation's  
14 economic well-being, every possible alternative to family  
15 detention should be examined, considered, and exhausted before such  
16 action is taken; now, therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the 81st Legislature of the State of Texas  
18 hereby respectfully request that the U.S. Department of Homeland  
19 Security consider all alternatives to the detention of immigrant  
20 and asylum-seeking families with children; and, be it further

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

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1 memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.