

By: Veasey

H.C.R. No. 148

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement
2 (ICE) operates detention facilities for undocumented immigrants
3 throughout the United States, including six Texas facilities in El
4 Paso, Houston, Laredo, Port Isabel, and Willacy County and the
5 South Texas facility in Pearsall; and

6 WHEREAS, During 2008, ICE detention facilities across the
7 United States held a total average daily population of 31,345
8 undocumented immigrants, and the average length of stay was more
9 than 30 days; of those detained, 10,653 were women; and

10 WHEREAS, Many of the women entering ICE detention facilities
11 are recent victims of sexual assault and other physical and mental
12 trauma, and the U.S. government and ICE are responsible for their
13 care and treatment during the time they are held in these
14 facilities; the ICE operational manual, which sets forth national
15 performance-based detention standards, states that detainees will
16 have access to the same health care services as detainees in the
17 general population; and

18 WHEREAS, Despite these written standards, ICE has failed to
19 provide women in its facilities with the same access to care
20 provided by the Federal Bureau of Prisons to its female population,
21 according to recent reports by investigative journalists; women in
22 ICE detention facilities have therefore been denied access to the
23 full range of medical care and treatment to which they are entitled;
24 and

1 WHEREAS, It is the duty of the State of Texas and of the
2 United States of America to treat the most vulnerable among us in a
3 humane and ethical manner; now, therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, That the 81st Legislature of the State of Texas
5 hereby respectfully urge the United States Congress to immediately
6 take all necessary steps to ensure that women in U.S. Immigration
7 and Customs Enforcement detention facilities receive full access to
8 the medical care to which they are entitled; and, be it further

9 RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official
10 copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to
11 the speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the
12 senate of the United States Congress, to the assistant secretary of
13 homeland security for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and
14 to all the members of the Texas delegation to Congress with the
15 request that this resolution be officially entered in the
16 Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United
17 States of America.