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H.C.R. No. 88

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Our nation's immigration system is inefficient and
2 badly flawed, and a complete overhaul is urgently needed to protect
3 our borders and ensure our future economic prosperity; and

4 WHEREAS, The United States Congress last passed major
5 immigration legislation a quarter-century ago; the Immigration
6 Reform and Control Act of 1986 failed to solve the problem of
7 illegal immigration, and subsequent piecemeal attempts at reform
8 have failed to create a rational and effective system; and

9 WHEREAS, Current immigration channels are rigid and
10 cumbersome, and as a consequence, smugglers enjoy a thriving market
11 that puts great pressure on our borders; not only do too many people
12 enter the country illegally, but there is no way to track whether
13 the millions who enter on valid visas actually depart when those
14 visas expire; moreover, employers are burdened by a complicated and
15 inflexible system for verifying the immigration status of potential
16 employees, and unscrupulous employers who recruit and exploit
17 undocumented workers have little fear of punishment; immigration
18 enforcement often targets ordinary workers and their families,
19 diverting resources and personnel from efforts to protect against
20 genuine threats to national security; and

21 WHEREAS, Today, the U.S. economy is inextricably linked to
22 the global economy, and globalization has increased the importance
23 of labor mobility; businesses need to be able to plan for growth as
24 world economic conditions improve, but obsolete immigration

1 policies make it difficult to prepare to compete in the global
2 marketplace; furthermore, while the American workforce has become
3 older and better educated, industries such as agriculture continue
4 to require large numbers of workers able and willing to perform
5 physically demanding jobs; and

6 WHEREAS, Two recent studies, by the Cato Institute and the
7 Center for American Progress with the Immigration Policy Center,
8 indicate that a complete overhaul of our system of immigration
9 would boost the economy by \$180 billion or more annually by raising
10 the productivity of immigrant workers and expanding activity
11 throughout the economy; and

12 WHEREAS, A true 21st-century immigration system would focus
13 on both the border and the workplace, establishing smart
14 enforcement policies and safeguards while creating legal
15 immigration channels that are flexible and serve our economic
16 interests; a complete overhaul should address the terms and
17 conditions of admission to and presence in this country, promote
18 the use of reliable and verifiable forms of worker identification,
19 and eliminate country of origin preferences; the violation of
20 immigration laws should be disincentivized, and employers and
21 prospective immigrants who have followed laws and procedures should
22 be rewarded; in addition, this overhaul must protect the rights and
23 equality of all United States citizens, including children; and

24 WHEREAS, Our national interests are poorly served by our
25 broken, embattled, and outdated immigration system, and patchwork
26 attempts to mend its deficiencies will not secure our borders or
27 prepare us to meet the challenges of an increasingly complex global

1 economy; now, therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, That the 82nd Legislature of the State of Texas
3 hereby urge the United States Congress to swiftly enact a complete
4 overhaul of our system of immigration that promotes our economic
5 prosperity and national security; and, be it further

6 RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official
7 copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to
8 the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of
9 Representatives of the United States Congress, and to all the
10 members of the Texas delegation to Congress with the request that
11 this resolution be entered in the Congressional Record as a
12 memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.