

By: Williams, et al.

S.C.R. No. 36

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The State of Texas is charged with protecting more  
2 than 1,200 miles of land and some 367 miles of coastline along the  
3 Mexican border, a job that has become increasingly difficult; and

4 WHEREAS, On September 25, 2006, Officer Rodney Johnson of the  
5 Houston Police Department was fatally shot during a routine traffic  
6 stop in Houston by a criminal illegal immigrant who had been  
7 previously deported and had once again entered the country; and

8 WHEREAS, Two years later, on November 22, 2008, two employees  
9 from the Texas Tech Medical School were gunned down in Juarez,  
10 Mexico, while participating in a funeral procession for a family  
11 member; less than a year after that, bullets from a gun battle in  
12 Matamoros, Mexico, grazed a campus building at The University of  
13 Texas at Brownsville, and on June 29, 2010, stray bullets from a  
14 deadly gun battle in Juarez struck the El Paso City Hall; and

15 WHEREAS, The Texas-Mexico border was especially violent in  
16 late summer 2010; on August 21, a portion of Highway U.S. 85 had to  
17 be shut down when gunfire from Juarez reached The University of  
18 Texas at El Paso and at least one bullet pierced Bell Hall; then, on  
19 the 11th of September, Mexican drug cartel members brazenly shot at  
20 patrolling U.S. law enforcement officers, and on the 30th of that  
21 month, members of a Mexican cartel viciously murdered David Michael  
22 Hartley, who was skiing on Falcon Lake with his wife; and

23 WHEREAS, Already, 2011 is shaping up to see more of the same;  
24 on January 14, an armed man from the Mexican side of the border

1 fired a high-powered rifle at road workers in Hudspeth County, and  
2 later that month, on January 26, Nancy Shuman Davis, an American  
3 missionary, was driving with her husband about 60 miles south of the  
4 border when she was shot and killed by gunmen; in February, the  
5 United States lost an Immigration and Customs Enforcement agent,  
6 Jaime Zapata, who was assigned to the ICE attache office in Mexico  
7 City; he and another ICE agent, who was injured, were attacked by  
8 unknown assailants while the agents were driving between Monterrey  
9 and Mexico City; and

10 WHEREAS, All of these events, as well as others that have not  
11 been cited or are not yet known, exemplify the inadequacy of federal  
12 border security efforts; the State of Texas has attempted to  
13 address the problem by adding 172 commissioned law enforcement  
14 officers to the border, purchasing five state-of-the-art  
15 helicopters, conducting border security surge operations, and  
16 paying more than \$79 million for overtime, training, equipment, and  
17 technology for local law enforcement officers in just the last four  
18 years; and

19 WHEREAS, Since 2006, law enforcement agencies working  
20 together in Texas have seized more than \$6.8 billion in illegal  
21 drugs and more than \$128 million in cash, along with over 2,600  
22 stolen firearms and weapons and approximately 2,230 stolen  
23 vehicles, all related to drug and human trafficking; and

24 WHEREAS, Texas has repeatedly asked the federal government to  
25 send more border security resources to this state, requesting  
26 specifically an increase in manpower of 3,000 border patrol agents  
27 and the deployment of 1,000 Title 32 National Guard troops and at

1 least one Texas-based and dedicated unmanned aircraft like those  
2 being used in North Dakota and Arizona; and

3 WHEREAS, At an average salary of \$60,000 a year, the cost of  
4 tripling the number of border patrol agents along our border with  
5 Mexico would cost the federal government less than \$2.5 billion,  
6 while the estimated costs of illegal immigration exceed that amount  
7 in Texas alone; and

8 WHEREAS, Texas taxpayers have spent billions compensating  
9 for the lack of federal resources provided to the state; in just one  
10 example, Texas prisons house nearly 12,000 violent offenders that  
11 claim foreign citizenship, and the state bears the entire cost of  
12 housing and prosecuting those offenders; at an average cost of \$47  
13 per day, that is over \$200 million per year that the federal  
14 government's failure to secure our border is costing Texans; at the  
15 very least, the federal government should be responsible for the  
16 cost of housing illegal immigrants who have been convicted of  
17 committing a crime in the State of Texas and the state should be  
18 reimbursed for its recent expenses in this regard; and

19 WHEREAS, Moreover, despite Texas' repeated requests that the  
20 federal government cease and desist transferring illegal aliens  
21 from other parts of the country to southwest Texas, the federal  
22 government continues to do so as part of the federal Alien Transfer  
23 and Exit Program; and

24 WHEREAS, Worse yet, Immigration and Customs Enforcement  
25 director John Morton released a memo stating that the agency did not  
26 have enough resources to deport all apprehended illegal aliens and  
27 instructed ICE employees to prioritize the apprehension and removal

1 of aliens, effectively giving many of them a free pass and  
2 handicapping local law enforcement; and

3 WHEREAS, The inability of Washington to develop some form of  
4 comprehensive immigration reform that might address this border  
5 security problem puts an unfair and unreasonable burden on the  
6 entire state, but in particular on Texas border communities, which  
7 already struggle to keep their streets and neighborhoods safe from  
8 spillover gang violence; and

9 WHEREAS, The federal government imposes immigration laws on  
10 our state while withholding both the funding and the manpower  
11 necessary to effectively enforce those laws, and this broken system  
12 has punished Texas taxpayers for far too long; now, therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the 82nd Legislature of the State of Texas  
14 hereby urge the members of the Texas congressional delegation to  
15 provide to the legislature a cost analysis of the exact funding  
16 necessary for full enforcement of all immigration laws in Texas and  
17 to immediately report to the legislature as to the status of that  
18 funding; and, be it further

19 RESOLVED, That the lieutenant governor of Texas and the  
20 speaker of the Texas House of Representatives send a delegation of  
21 members from both chambers to meet with members of Congress and  
22 members of the executive branch to discuss the ongoing border  
23 security crisis; and, be it further

24 RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official  
25 copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to  
26 the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of  
27 Representatives of the United States Congress, and to all the

S.C.R. No. 36

1 members of the Texas delegation to Congress with the request that  
2 this resolution be entered in the Congressional Record as a  
3 memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.