

By: Anchia, Villalba, Hernandez Luna,  
Martinez Fischer

H.C.R. No. 44

Substitute the following for H.C.R. No. 44:

By: Oliveira

C.S.H.C.R. No. 44

#### HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1           WHEREAS, In an increasingly complex global economy,  
2 transnational labor mobility is crucial to the prosperity of the  
3 United States, but our rigid, outmoded immigration policies are  
4 making it difficult for the nation to compete; and

5           WHEREAS, The United States Congress last enacted major  
6 immigration legislation more than a quarter-century ago; since that  
7 time, piecemeal attempts at reform have failed to create the kind of  
8 rational and effective system we need to maintain competitiveness,  
9 whether in industries like agriculture, construction, and  
10 manufacturing, which require large numbers of workers able to  
11 perform physically demanding tasks, or in technology, where the  
12 demand for employees with advanced degrees in math and science is  
13 projected to outstrip supply by 2018; and

14           WHEREAS, Immigrants perform vital functions in a variety of  
15 industries, and in Texas, they start nearly a third of the state's  
16 new businesses; even unauthorized immigrants produce more in state  
17 revenue than they receive in state services, according to a 2006  
18 study by the Office of the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts,  
19 which estimated that their deportation would cause more than a six  
20 percent decline in the workforce and nearly an \$18 billion decline  
21 in the gross state product; and

22           WHEREAS, The United States is now home to some 11 million  
23 unauthorized immigrants, including millions of children brought to  
24 this country illegally who have grown up here and know no home other

1 than the United States; a commonsense road map to earned legal  
2 status for these residents would create additional tax revenue and  
3 stimulate the economy by allowing them to open bank accounts,  
4 obtain college degrees, buy homes, establish new American  
5 companies, and create jobs; a recent study published by the Cato  
6 Institute estimated that a complete overhaul of the immigration  
7 system would yield at least \$1.5 trillion in added U.S. gross  
8 domestic product over 10 years; and

9       WHEREAS, A rational overhaul of the immigration system  
10 requires a tough, fair, and practical program to address the status  
11 of unauthorized immigrants, stopping real threats and contingent on  
12 bringing accountability to border enforcement programs, providing  
13 additional funding for border communities that bear a  
14 disproportionate burden in the enforcement of immigration laws, and  
15 addressing visa overstays; in order to protect all workers, whether  
16 native or foreign-born, it must include an efficient and  
17 transparent employment verification system that identifies  
18 qualified candidates while penalizing employers who knowingly hire  
19 unauthorized immigrants; federal policy must also be designed to  
20 develop a guest worker program to respond to the future labor needs  
21 of U.S. business by matching willing workers with willing American  
22 employers; and

23       WHEREAS, Recognizing the characteristics that will help  
24 build prosperity and strengthen our society, a commonsense road map  
25 to earned legal status for unauthorized immigrants would encompass  
26 a health and criminal background check, proof of a stable U.S. work  
27 history and current employment, and payment of relevant fines and

1 taxes; to gain probationary legal status, individuals would be  
2 further required to demonstrate knowledge of English and American  
3 civics and go to the back of the same line as those prospective  
4 immigrants seeking to come to the United States legally; fairness  
5 demands that the system take into account special circumstances  
6 surrounding candidates for probationary legal status, such as  
7 minors brought to the country as children or agricultural workers  
8 whose labor is essential to maintain the food supply; and

9 WHEREAS, The United States is a nation founded upon respect  
10 for the rule of law; national security and our national interests  
11 are poorly served by an embattled immigration system, and patchwork  
12 attempts to mend its deficiencies undermine our potential for  
13 prosperity and leave us ill-prepared to meet the challenges of the  
14 modern world; and

15 WHEREAS, Solutions that provide for blanket amnesty, such as  
16 those presented in the Simpson-Mazzoli Act of 1986, encourage  
17 future violations of the law and should be excluded from the panoply  
18 of options to be considered by the United States Congress; now,  
19 therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, That the 83rd Legislature of the State of Texas  
21 hereby respectfully urge the United States Congress to swiftly  
22 enact and fund comprehensive immigration reform that creates both a  
23 commonsense road map to earned legal status for some 11 million  
24 unauthorized immigrants and a guest worker program that  
25 contemplates the future needs of U.S. business, in furtherance of  
26 our nation's economic growth and national security; and, be it  
27 further

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