

By: Lucio

S.C.R. No. 9

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Zika and other communicable diseases do not stop at
2 international borders, but by working together, the United States
3 and Mexico can establish an effective framework to provide the
4 necessary resources, personnel, and funding to improve the response
5 to threats such as the Zika virus at the local, state, national, and
6 binational level; and

7 WHEREAS, A template for successful binational cooperation is
8 offered by the North American Development Bank and its sister
9 institution, the Border Environmental Cooperation Commission,
10 launched in 1994 by the federal governments of the United States and
11 Mexico to fund and certify environmental infrastructure projects in
12 the border region; the NADB and BECC are governed jointly by the two
13 countries via a 10-member board of directors composed of
14 high-ranking officials from each nation, a border state
15 representative, and a border resident representative; and

16 WHEREAS, Cooperation at the highest levels of the U.S. and
17 Mexican governments is key to protecting the health and well-being
18 of people in border communities and throughout the Northern
19 Hemisphere from Zika and other communicable diseases; now,
20 therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, That the 85th Legislature of the State of Texas
22 hereby urge the United States Congress to work with the U.S.
23 president, the U.S. ambassador to Mexico, and their counterparts in
24 Mexico to explore and negotiate the creation of a binational

1 framework to address the threat of communicable diseases; and, be
2 it further

3 RESOLVED, That consideration be given to expanding the
4 mission of the NADB and BECC or building on that example to
5 establish new institutions; Congress is also urged to consider
6 entrusting governance of these endeavors to the members of the NADB
7 and BECC board along with the secretary of the U.S. Department of
8 Health and Human Services, the director of the U.S. Centers for
9 Disease Control and Prevention, and their Mexican counterparts;
10 and, be it further

11 RESOLVED, That the Texas Legislature urge that such new
12 institutions provide essential support to enhance conditions,
13 improve drainage and other infrastructure, and advance measures
14 that directly or indirectly promote the prevention of communicable
15 diseases in the border region; and, be it further

16 RESOLVED, That the Texas Legislature urge that such
17 institutions provide assistance in the form of loans, grants, and
18 in-kind resources to allow local communities, federal entities, and
19 stakeholders to undertake research, surveillance, outreach
20 campaigns, detection, and data exchange and assessment to educate
21 border residents about the spread of communicable disease and to
22 aid areas where disease is being transmitted; and, be it further

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

S.C.R. No. 9

1 this resolution be entered in the Congressional Record as a
2 memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.