

By: Estes

S.C.R. No. 35

1 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, It is the responsibility of the federal government  
3 to fully maintain the security of the Texas-Mexico international  
4 border; and

5 WHEREAS, The federal government has neglected its duty to  
6 fully maintain the security of the Texas-Mexico international  
7 border; and

8 WHEREAS, An unprotected border facilitates drug smuggling  
9 and human trafficking and opens the door to spillover violence from  
10 criminal cartels; moreover, the ease with which members of  
11 terrorist organizations can enter the country poses a grave threat  
12 to homeland security; and

13 WHEREAS, The federal government's failure to prevent illegal  
14 entry has shifted much of the responsibility to the State of Texas;  
15 consequently, budget writers must weigh the costs of border  
16 security against the expense of other state services; during the  
17 2012-2013 fiscal biennium, Texas spent \$222,068,318 on border  
18 security operations, and in the 2014-2015 fiscal biennium,  
19 \$467,872,482, and in the 2016-2017 fiscal biennium, \$800,038,429;  
20 and

21 WHEREAS, The executive branch and the United States Congress  
22 have consistently delayed meaningful action on border security,  
23 forcing Texas to expend significant resources to keep the  
24 international border with Mexico secure and placing an undue burden

1 on the state's taxpayers; now, therefore, be it

2         RESOLVED, That the 85th Legislature of the State of Texas  
3 hereby express its dissatisfaction with the federal government's  
4 inadequate efforts to secure the Texas-Mexico international  
5 border; and, be it further

6         RESOLVED, That the 85th Texas Legislature respectfully urge  
7 the Congress of the United States to reimburse the State of Texas in  
8 the amount of \$1,489,979,229 billion for bearing the financial  
9 burden of the federal government's responsibility to secure the  
10 Texas-Mexico international border from 2012 through 2017; and, be  
11 it further

12         RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official  
13 copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to  
14 the president of the Senate and to the speaker of the House of  
15 Representatives of the United States Congress, and to all the  
16 members of the Texas delegation to Congress with the request that  
17 this resolution be entered in the Congressional Record as a  
18 memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.