

By: Zaffirini

S.C.R. No. 4

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The Texas-Mexico border spans 14 counties in the  
2 State of Texas, and approximately 10 percent of the state's  
3 population resides in a Texas-Mexico border county; and

4 WHEREAS, Millions of people rely on crossing the border to  
5 access education, health care, retail, and other service industry  
6 necessities, and these activities have a positive effect on the  
7 economic stability of the region; the border generated more than  
8 \$350 billion in annual gross domestic product as of 2019, and trade  
9 within the region represents more than 5 percent of Texas' gross  
10 domestic product; and

11 WHEREAS, In 2018, trade through the El Paso port of entry  
12 affected approximately 165,000 net jobs in Texas and \$25 billion in  
13 gross domestic product; moreover, Port Laredo is the largest inland  
14 trade port along the border, ranking third in the nation for total  
15 trade in May 2021; across the United States, the Pharr-Reynosa  
16 International Bridge is the second largest produce-crossing land  
17 port, ensuring the efficient delivery of fresh fruits and  
18 vegetables to all Americans; and

19 WHEREAS, The Texas-Mexico border is a vibrant, thriving,  
20 multicultural region that contributes to the richness and diversity  
21 of our state and country; the majority of area residents are  
22 Americans of at least partial Mexican descent, and the tri-national  
23 region includes tribal nations such as the Kickapoo Traditional  
24 Tribe of Texas and Ysleta del Sur Pueblo of El Paso; and

1           WHEREAS, Border communities have long been recognized for  
2 their steadfast commitment to safety; countless generations of  
3 Texans have chosen to rear their families along the Texas-Mexico  
4 border due to its peaceful community, and some of the safest cities  
5 in the country include Brownsville, Eagle Pass, Del Rio, Laredo,  
6 McAllen, and El Paso, which is known for Fort Bliss and its  
7 significant military presence; and

8           WHEREAS, Multiple cities along the border have been honored  
9 with the All-American City award; El Paso has won the award four  
10 times, and Edinburg has won three times; other recipients of this  
11 prestigious designation include McAllen, Mission, Hidalgo, Pharr,  
12 and Weslaco; and

13           WHEREAS, The Texas-Mexico border features an ecologically  
14 diverse environment; the region's natural sites include the  
15 Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park, Quinta Mazatlán, the  
16 Butterfly Center, and Big Bend National Park, which attracts  
17 numerous species of birds, plants, butterflies, bats, reptiles, and  
18 ants; in addition, one of the state's symbols, the Texas red  
19 grapefruit, is grown in the Rio Grande Valley; and

20           WHEREAS, Countless Texans benefit from the border region's  
21 premier educational institutions, which include four-year  
22 universities, junior colleges, and trade schools; more than 28,600  
23 students are enrolled in The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley,  
24 and the UTRGV School of Medicine currently serves hundreds of  
25 medical students, medical residents, and fellows who participate in  
26 hospital-based training programs; in Laredo, Texas A&M  
27 International University and Laredo College are designated

1 Hispanic-Serving Institutions; and

2           WHEREAS, The Texas-Mexico border region is playing a vital  
3 role in the story of the Lone Star State, and it is indeed deserving  
4 of special recognition; now, therefore, be it

5           RESOLVED, That the 87th Legislature of the State of Texas,  
6 1st Called Session, hereby recognize that the Texas-Mexico border  
7 is vital to the economy, education, and character of our state, and  
8 that the cities and counties along the Texas-Mexico border are  
9 vibrant, prosperous, diverse, and safe communities.