

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The State of Texas is the second most populous state
2 in the United States and currently registers more than 1,000 births
3 per day; and

4 WHEREAS, Texas has a 1,254-mile international border with the
5 United Mexican States with millions of border crossings and
6 thousands of international flights arriving in Texas each year, and
7 10 percent of Texans living on the border with Mexico; and

8 WHEREAS, Mexico is the United States' second-largest trading
9 partner and, according to the Center for Transportation Research at
10 The University of Texas at Austin, 76 percent of all U.S. trade with
11 Mexico passes through Texas; and

12 WHEREAS, The nation's food industry has a pivotal role in the
13 health and bio-security of all Americans, and Texas is the nation's
14 second largest agricultural producing state; and

15 WHEREAS, Preventing infectious livestock and plant diseases
16 and protecting our food supply goes a long way toward ensuring both
17 human health and economic stability in Texas and the United States;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, Serving as an infectious disease buffer zone for the
20 rest of the United States, Texas faces a significant burden
21 regarding a number of diseases, with the rate of waterborne
22 diseases such as hepatitis A and amebiasis in the Texas counties
23 bordering Mexico that has, as an example, been reported to be two to
24 three times greater than the statewide average; in 2003, the rate of

1 tuberculosis incidence per 100,000 in population was nearly twice
2 that of non-border counties; and

3 WHEREAS, The condition of public health within Texas,
4 particularly along the international border, is clearly critical to
5 that of the entire country; and

6 WHEREAS, With more than 22 million residents, Texas also
7 faces a number of other alarming public health issues, such as
8 obesity, cardiovascular disease, and diabetes; in 2003, the Texas
9 Department of Health reported that 39 percent of Texas
10 fourth-graders, 38 percent of eighth-graders, and 61 percent of
11 Texas adults were overweight or obese; and

12 WHEREAS, Heart disease and stroke are the number one and
13 number three causes of death in Texas, accounting for approximately
14 54,000 deaths each year in Texas; and

15 WHEREAS, The Texas Diabetes Council estimates that more than
16 one million adults in Texas have been diagnosed with diabetes and
17 more than 500,000 adults are believed to have undiagnosed diabetes;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, An increased presence and resources from the Centers
20 for Disease Control and Prevention could help prevent
21 vaccine-preventable childhood and adult diseases and prevent and
22 control the introduction of lethal diseases such as tuberculosis
23 and SARS, which could potentially lead to catastrophic consequences
24 in terms of morbidity, mortality, health care costs, and statewide
25 impact; and

26 WHEREAS, Partnerships and coordination between the State of
27 Texas and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention could

1 greatly enhance protection against the spread of infectious
2 disease, further obesity prevention activities, and improve early
3 detection, treatment, and self-management of chronic diseases such
4 as heart disease and diabetes; and

5 WHEREAS, Texas' growing population, demographic diversity,
6 and border with the United Mexican States present unique challenges
7 to providing quality health care to its citizens; as a buffer to the
8 remainder of the United States against infectious disease and
9 contamination of the country's food supply, the State of Texas
10 merits additional resources to provide for the health of its
11 residents and, ultimately, to safeguard the health of the entire
12 United States; now, therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the 79th Legislature of the State of Texas
14 hereby strongly encourage the United States Congress to increase
15 the presence of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in
16 Texas, improve coordination of Centers for Disease Control and
17 Prevention programs with those operated by the Texas Department of
18 State Health Services, and increase the amount of federal resources
19 coming into Texas from the Centers for Disease Control and
20 Prevention; and, be it further

21 RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official
22 copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, the
23 speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the
24 senate of the United States Congress, and all members of the Texas
25 delegation to the congress with the request that this resolution be
26 officially entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the
27 Congress of the United States of America and that copies also be

1 forwarded to the secretary of the United States Department of
2 Health and Human Services and the director of the Centers for
3 Disease Control and Prevention.

Delisi

David Newhall

President of the Senate

Jim Cooper

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.C.R. No. 37 was adopted by the House on April 18, 2005, by a non-record vote.

Robert Honey
Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.C.R. No. 37 was adopted by the Senate on May 12, 2005, by a viva-voce vote.

Patsy Spaw
Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: 24 MAY 05

Date

RICK PERRY

Governor

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
7:00 PM C/O CLOCK

Roger Williams
MAY 24 2005
Secretary of State