

1 CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The United States of America is a nation of
3 immigrants; and

4 WHEREAS, The immigrant's story is woven into the social and
5 cultural fabric of this nation; and

6 WHEREAS, Our nation requires an immigration system that
7 provides for public safety, national security, economic
8 prosperity, and the wellbeing of all who live and work in the United
9 States; and

10 WHEREAS, The Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 is
11 the last major piece of immigration legislation to be passed by the
12 United States Congress; that legislation and subsequent piecemeal
13 reforms fail to adequately address the challenges posed by
14 immigration today; and

15 WHEREAS, A January, 2013, poll conducted by the Associated
16 Press shows that 62 percent of Americans support reform of the
17 immigration system; and

18 WHEREAS, There appears to be a renewed willingness in the
19 United States Congress to reform our immigration system; and

20 WHEREAS, An August, 2009, report by the CATO Institute found
21 that immigration reform could lead to a \$180 billion gain for United
22 States households; and

23 WHEREAS, A June, 2012, Fiscal Policy Institute report found
24 that immigrants owned 18 percent of all small businesses in the

1 United States in 2010, which was a higher percentage than the
2 immigrant share of the population or labor force; and immigrant
3 owned businesses employed 4.7 million people and had \$776 billion
4 in receipts in 2007; and

5 WHEREAS, The Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy found
6 that undocumented immigrants have contributed over \$1.6 billion in
7 state and local taxes in 2010 alone; and

8 WHEREAS, A 2010 report by the Economic Policy Institute found
9 that immigration increased wages of native born workers from 1994
10 to 2007; and

11 WHEREAS, A study by The Perryman Group found that Texas would
12 lose \$69.3 billion in economic activity, \$30.8 billion in gross
13 state product, and approximately 403,000 jobs if all undocumented
14 immigrants were removed from the state; and

15 WHEREAS, The 77th Legislature of the State of Texas granted
16 in-state tuition to undocumented immigrants, allowing over 22,000
17 students to realize their educational goals and contribute to the
18 Texas economy; and

19 WHEREAS, The United States requires secure borders to
20 maintain its integrity as a sovereign nation; now, therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, That the 83rd Legislature of the State of Texas
22 hereby urge the United States Congress to thoughtfully and swiftly
23 enact a comprehensive reform of our immigration system that
24 provides undocumented immigrants a clear path to citizenship,
25 promotes public safety, national security, economic prosperity,
26 and the wellbeing of all those living and working in the United
27 States; and, be it further

S.C.R. No. 15

1 RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official
2 copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, the
3 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 the congress.