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Texas Senate Declares There Is an Emergency Crisis on the Southern Border
SR 535, by Senator Bettencourt, calls upon the Federal Government to Act to solve this crisis

Austin – The Texas Senate today passed SR535, by Senator Bettencourt (R-Houston) to recognize that there is an urgent security and humanitarian crisis on the border between the United States and Mexico. Highlighting the urgency of the issue the Texas Senate voted to suspend normal rules and immediately debate the issue on the Senate Floor. This was done in response to recent statements from border officials highlighting that they are at a breaking point. SR535 was Joint-Authored by nineteen members of the Texas Senate. SR535 passed by a vote of 19-12.

“There is a crisis on the border by every measurement that I understand,” said Senator Bettencourt. **“It is time to recognize the obvious. DHS has reported that there have been 100,000 interdictions at the border in just one month. It is time to declare this crisis the emergency that it is!”**

Between 2011 and 2019 there have been 194,000 criminal illegal aliens booked in Texas jails. They have committed almost 300,000 crimes, including burglary, kidnapping, and various drug charges, over this same time period. Recent news reports also highlight the toll that human trafficking has taken with women who arrived in border towns reporting that they have been beaten, raped, and sometimes coerced into prostitution. On March 28, 2019, Kirstjen Nielsen (Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security), sent an urgent request to the United States Congress describing the border as *"a humanitarian and security catastrophe that is worsening by the day."*

Senate Resolution 535 would resolve the following things:

- 1) Call upon the United States Congress to adopt a budget that fully funds all means necessary to fully secure the Texas-Mexico international border, including deploying personnel and erecting barriers where needed.
- 2) Resolve that the ongoing crisis at the border is an “emergency” that must be addressed.
- 3) Support President Trump in his efforts to move forward with emergency action.

“The failure of Washington, DC to do their job has created an undue burden on the backs of Texas taxpayers,” continued Senator Bettencourt. **“Texans recognize that we have a crisis at the border and that speaking out is important. It is past time for us to speak out on this issue and it is past time for the Federal government to do their job and secure the border. Enough is enough!”**

The Texas Senate, under the leadership of Lt. Governor Patrick (R-Houston) has allocated approximately \$800 million in the current biennium to support border enforcement along the Texas-Mexico border.

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