

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 91

Senators Runestad, Daley, Hoitenga, Theis, Bellino, Hauck, McBroom, Damoose, Bumstead, Victory, Nesbitt, Outman, Lindsey and Johnson offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to support the actions of the Governor of Texas
2 in furtherance of his constitutional right and responsibility to
3 protect the citizens of his state and secure the border.

4 Whereas, The President of the United States has left Americans
5 and the nation extremely vulnerable to the torrent of illegal
6 immigrants pouring across the southern border. Instead of upholding
7 the rule of law and securing the border, the Biden Administration
8 has attacked and sued the state of Texas for stepping up to protect
9 American citizens from the illegal immigrants, deadly drugs like
10 fentanyl, and terrorists entering our country; and

11 Whereas, The United States is experiencing high levels of

1 illegal immigration, and the rate at which migrants are attempting
2 to unlawfully enter the country is accelerating. The total number
3 of encounters between migrants and U.S. Customs and Border
4 Protection increased from almost 2.3 million in 2021, to over 3
5 million in 2022, and 3.3 million in 2023. December 2023 was the
6 worst month during this period, with 371,036 encounters.
7 Extrapolating from this data, there may be as many as 11.5 million
8 total encounters during President Biden's first term; and

9 Whereas, These figures do not even include "gotaways,"
10 unauthorized entrants who Border Patrol has ceased pursuing. There
11 were at least 1.4 million known gotaways reported from January 2021
12 to April 2023, and it is estimated that there may be as many as 2.2
13 million gotaways across President Biden's term in office; and

14 Whereas, Many of the migrants encountered at the border are
15 released into the interior of the United States. The United States
16 Secretary of Homeland Security publicly stated that he would not be
17 surprised to hear that more than 70 percent of migrants crossing
18 the border are released, and he privately admitted to Border Patrol
19 agents that more than 85 percent of those encountered at the
20 southern border are being released; and

21 Whereas, Some individuals who seek to unlawfully enter the
22 United States are dangerous, both to U.S. citizens and to
23 immigrants. Over the last few years, cartels have become
24 increasingly involved in illegal immigration, such that they now
25 make an estimated 13 billion dollars per year from human smuggling.
26 In fiscal year 2023, there were 169 encounters with individuals on
27 the terrorist watchlist on the southern border between ports of
28 entry, and between fiscal years 2021 and 2023, U.S. Border Patrol
29 apprehended 1,697 known gang members; and

1 Whereas, In case of invasion, states have a constitutional
2 right to take action to defend their sovereignty. The United States
3 is charged with a constitutional duty to protect the states from
4 invasion under Article IV of the United States Constitution.
5 However, when the federal government has abdicated its
6 responsibility, the states are left to fight for themselves.
7 Article I, Section 10, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution
8 prohibits states from engaging in war "unless actually invaded, or
9 in such imminent Danger as will not admit of delay." The Governor
10 of Texas has thus taken steps to defend its citizenry from the
11 threats posed by border insecurity, authorizing enhanced border
12 security measures; and

13 Whereas, It is not merely states located along the southwest
14 border that should care about illegal immigration. According to a
15 report published by the Federation for American Immigration Reform
16 in 2023, an estimated 185,000 illegal aliens and their 63,000 U.S.-
17 born children cost Michigan taxpayers 1.12 billion dollars
18 annually. The governors of twenty-five other states have signed a
19 joint statement in support of the Texas Governor's actions on the
20 border, in recognition of the crisis our nation now faces; now,
21 therefore, be it

22 Resolved by the Senate, That we support the actions of the
23 Governor of Texas in furtherance of his constitutional right and
24 responsibility to protect the citizens of his state and secure the
25 border; and be it further

26 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
27 President of the United States, the President of the United States
28 Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives,
29 and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.