

By: Pickett

H.C.R. No. 29

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The impact of our nation's economic crisis has begun  
2 to take a toll on Texas; Comptroller Susan Combs estimates that  
3 2010-2011 revenues will suffer a \$9.1 billion shortfall,  
4 representing a projected 10.5 percent decline from the current  
5 budget; and

6 WHEREAS, Spending cuts will affect not only education,  
7 transportation, and other vital state services; state spending cuts  
8 also undermine potential growth by removing dollars that would  
9 otherwise be spent on goods and services produced or delivered in  
10 the state; and

11 WHEREAS, The federal government is developing a stimulus  
12 package aimed at jump-starting the faltering economy; under the  
13 bill known as the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009,  
14 Texas could claim at least \$27 billion in federal funds; the  
15 stimulus plan would send hundreds of millions of dollars to  
16 cash-strapped school districts and provide \$5 billion to stanch the  
17 flow of red ink from the state's Medicaid program; and

18 WHEREAS, In addition, the stimulus package would inject money  
19 into our economy by assisting the ranks of the unemployed, which are  
20 expected to increase by more than 100,000 this year and reach a  
21 level of approximately 6.6 percent in 2010-2011; the state would  
22 receive an additional \$846 million for unemployment insurance, and  
23 Texans losing jobs after September 1, 2008, would receive a subsidy  
24 to help them keep their previous employer-sponsored health

1 insurance; and

2 WHEREAS, The Texas economy can also benefit by provisions in  
3 the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 designed to  
4 preserve and create jobs, to provide investment in technology,  
5 transportation, energy efficiency, environmental protection, and  
6 infrastructure, and to minimize or avert reductions in essential  
7 services; and

8 WHEREAS, With oil and gas prices and exports declining, Texas  
9 can expect to feel the effects of this recession more sharply; it is  
10 essential that the state quickly take advantage of all stimulus  
11 funds available from the federal government in order to lessen the  
12 current impact of the economic downturn and prepare the foundation  
13 for long-term growth and prosperity when the national economy  
14 recovers; now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the 81st Legislature of the State of Texas  
16 hereby express its intent that the state accept federal economic  
17 stimulus funds appropriated under the American Recovery and  
18 Reinvestment Act of 2009 or any other such legislation.