

110TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. CON. RES. 218

Expressing the sense of Congress regarding United States immigration and border security laws.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 24, 2007

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

---

## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress regarding United States immigration and border security laws.

Whereas, since 1996, Congress has passed and the Executive Branch has enacted several laws related to border security and immigration reform;

Whereas many of these laws have required substantial increases to employ more Border Patrol agents, including the objective of having 18,000 Border Patrol agents on payroll by the end of December 2008;

Whereas increasing the number of Border Patrol agents will not only reduce the number of illegal crossings at the border but will also enhance United States national security;

Whereas strengthening United States national security includes constructing and complying with the Secure Fence Act of 2006, by building 850 miles of fencing along the southern border with Mexico;

Whereas the Secretary of Homeland Security is required to submit to Congress a report by October 26, 2007, on the progress made toward achieving and maintaining operational control over the international border;

Whereas the program authorized under section 287(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act provides the legal authority for State and local law enforcement to investigate, detain, and arrest aliens who have violated existing United States law; and

Whereas greater participation in the section 287(g) program will help clarify the distinction between Federal responsibility and local responsibility: Now, therefore, be it

1        *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*  
2 *concurring)*, That it is the Sense of the Congress that—

3            (1) Congress should verify that current immi-  
4            gration and border security laws are enforced;

5            (2) the Secretary of Homeland Security should  
6            ensure that construction of the border fence is expe-  
7            dited and use existing authority provided in the  
8            REAL ID Act to waive any legal requirements need-  
9            ed for construction of such border fencing;

10           (3) the report required by the Secretary should  
11           include recommendations that would enhance United  
12           States national security on the northern border and

1 emphasize the Administration's commitment to pro-  
2 tecting both the southern and northern borders with  
3 Mexico and Canada;

4 (4) Congress and the Administration should ex-  
5 pand the program authorized under section 287(g)  
6 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, including by  
7 providing the appropriate funds and flexibility for  
8 State and local governments to use;

9 (5) construction of the fence along the southern  
10 border should not be delayed;

11 (6) Congress should fully fund the 18,000 Bor-  
12 der Patrol agents as authorized under current law;  
13 and

14 (7) State and law enforcement should be pro-  
15 vided the necessary resources to prosecute those in-  
16 dividuals who disregard United States immigration  
17 laws.

○