

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 281

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the success of Operation Streamline and the importance of prosecuting first time illegal border crossers.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 21, 2015

Mr. GOSAR (for himself, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. OLSON, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mr. McCLINTOCK, Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. NUGENT, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. BARLETTA, and Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, 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

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the success of Operation Streamline and the importance of prosecuting first time illegal border crossers.

Whereas the Border Patrol's Yuma Sector has long grappled with the crossing of illegal aliens and has seen illegal traffic decline precipitously from the early 2000s to the present;

Whereas a combination of increased manpower, technology implementation, and the delivery of appropriate con-

sequences have resulted in gains in border security in the Yuma Sector;

Whereas a key to the success in the Yuma Sector has been the implementation of Operation Streamline, a program established in 2005 that was described by former Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano as “a DHS partnership with the Department of Justice, . . . a geographically focused operation that aims to increase the consequences for illegally crossing the border by criminally prosecuting illegal border-crossers.”;

Whereas known for its “zero-tolerance” approach, the Yuma County Sheriff’s Office cites 100 percent prosecution of illegal border crossers as a shared goal of a partnership including Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies;

Whereas among the various consequences delivered to illegal crossers by the Department of Homeland Security, Operation Streamline is associated with a recidivism rate that is well below average and has seen a steady decrease in recidivism in recent years;

Whereas the United States Attorney’s Office for the District of Arizona will reportedly no longer be prosecuting those apprehended crossing the border illegally for the first time; and

Whereas according to the Sheriff of Yuma County, Operation Streamline “had a deterrent effect in Yuma County, which gained a reputation as an area to avoid crossing into because if caught, you were assured to go to court and possibly face penalties”, but now the program “has been severely diluted.”: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Rep-
2 representatives that—

3 (1) gains made in border security in the Yuma
4 Sector and positive trends in recidivism rates are of
5 critical importance to those living and working in
6 the border region and to the Nation as a whole;

7 (2) refusing to prosecute first time illegal bor-
8 der crossers under Operation Streamline will jeop-
9 ardize border security gains;

10 (3) the border security steps that have led to
11 some measure of improvement on the border, such
12 as the historical implementation of Operation
13 Streamline, should be preserved; and

14 (4) the executive branch should immediately re-
15 move any issued or related prohibition, policy, guid-
16 ance, or direction to cease prosecuting first time ille-
17 gal border crossers under Operation Streamline.

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