

Senate Resolution 543

By: Senators Gooch of the 51st, Kennedy of the 18th, Beach of the 21st, Dolezal of the 27th, Anavitarte of the 31st and others

ADOPTED SENATE

A RESOLUTION

1 Supporting increased protections for America's borders; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, on January 20, 2021, President Joe Biden terminated the national emergency
3 at our southern border declared by Proclamation 9844 and halted the funding and
4 construction of the border wall; and

5 WHEREAS, within his own proclamation, President Biden described the construction of the
6 wall as "a waste of money that diverts attention from genuine threats to our homeland
7 security" and declared that former-President Donald Trump's determination of a national
8 emergency at our southern border "was unwarranted"; and

9 WHEREAS, despite President Biden's subsequent legislative efforts to ostensibly modernize
10 our immigration system and secure our border against criminal activity, United States
11 Customs and Border Protection reports that illicit fentanyl smuggling is increasing, notably
12 across the southern border; and

13 WHEREAS, the amount of fentanyl seized has increased by 480 percent since Fiscal Year
14 2020, representing a staggering 26,700 pounds recovered in Fiscal Year 2023 compared to
15 just 4,600 pounds in 2020; and

16 WHEREAS, as written by Texas Governor Greg Abbott on January 24, 2024, President
17 Biden "has violated his oath to faithfully execute immigration laws enacted by Congress,"
18 "instructed his agencies to ignore federal statutes that mandate the detention of illegal
19 immigrants," and "inflicted unprecedented harm on the People all across the United States";
20 and

21 WHEREAS, in accordance with Article I, Section 10, Clause 3 of the United States
22 Constitution, which acknowledges "the States' sovereign interest in protecting their borders,"
23 the State of Texas has declared an invasion and invoked its constitutional authority to defend
24 and protect itself, leading to the launch of Operation Lone Star; and

25 WHEREAS, this multi-agency effort has since led to more than 496,700 illegal immigrant
26 apprehensions, 38,700 criminal arrests, and 35,100 felony charges, successfully filling the
27 dangerous gaps created by the Biden Administration's refusal to secure the border; and

28 WHEREAS, in circumstances where the American people continue to suffer due to the
29 inadequacy of actions taken by their federal government, it falls upon all other public
30 servants to speak against such injustice and act decisively to rectify it.

31 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
32 support increased protection for America's borders in the pursuit of ending the illegal
33 immigration and smuggling that has long threatened our people.

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of this body support any action taken by
35 Governor Brian Kemp to allocate resources and assistance to the protection of the southern
36 border as well as the actions of Governor Greg Abbott to safeguard the people of Texas.

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of this body encourage Congress to close
38 the southern border and reinstate funding for as well as construction of the border wall.

39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of this body condemn President Joe
40 Biden's executive actions relating to the southern border and urge for the reinstatement of
41 former-President Donald Trump's border policies, specifically Executive Order 13768 and
42 Proclamation 9844.

43 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
44 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the public and the
45 press.