ENROLLED

Regular Session, 2011

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 11

BY REPRESENTATIVE BALDONE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To memorialize the United States Congress to provide proper funding for the Regional Counterdrug Training Academy which provides counterdrug training to law enforcement agencies in the southern coastal region.

WHEREAS, the Regional Counterdrug Training Academy (RCTA) located at the Naval Air Station in Meridian, Mississippi, began as a component of the law enforcement agency sponsored, congressionally directed, Gulf States Counterdrug Initiative (GSCI); and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the GSCI is "to identify resources, services, and support that can be legitimately provided by the Department of Defense and other agencies to support counterdrug activities along the United States southern coastal region"; and

WHEREAS, although sponsored by law enforcement, six United States Senators, nineteen United States Representatives, and three state governors heavily endorsed the GSCI proposal; and

WHEREAS, one of the provisions of the GSCI document was a request by the Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi senior drug law enforcement agencies to establish a counterdrug training academy with the mission of training law enforcement officers in counterdrug skills; and

WHEREAS, the academy mission was initially focused on the three requesting states and later expanded to include the states of Georgia and Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the GSCI states, the RCTA provides training to law enforcement agencies throughout the United States, including the National Guardsmen involved in counterdrug support missions, which has been provided at no cost to the law enforcement officers or agencies; and

WHEREAS, with guidance and resources provided by the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) Coordinator for Drug Enforcement Policy and Support, and the National

Guard Bureau (NGB), the Mississippi National Guard accepted the mission of establishing a regional training center; and

WHEREAS, the RCTA training philosophy emphasizes hands-on training and demands a secure field training facility; and

WHEREAS, since the first class began in September 1992, thousands of officers have graduated in over forty-three different subjects at the RCTA; and

WHEREAS, the target audience is state, county or parish, and municipal uniformed officers and conventional narcotics investigators; and

WHEREAS, the RCTA has been offering unparalleled training for over fifteen years to law enforcement agencies all over the Gulf states region; and

WHEREAS, the RCTA has offered approximately sixty different counterdrug courses as well as approximately ten counter terrorism courses at no cost to the law enforcement agency; and

WHEREAS, the RCTA has been an extremely valuable asset to the law enforcement community of the entire Gulf states region; and

WHEREAS, the budget used to fund RCTA has not been approved, causing all upcoming classes to be canceled.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the Congress of the United States to restore funding for the Regional Counterdrug Training Academy located in Meridian, Mississippi.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE