

By Senator Saunders

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Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing Sheriff Don Hunter and the Collier County Sheriff's Office for completing the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement cross-training program to improve immigration enforcement in Florida.

WHEREAS, the people of Collier County and the State of Florida have expressed serious concerns related to the need for improved immigration enforcement with respect to individuals who are not lawfully residing in the State of Florida and the United States of America, and

WHEREAS, the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act added Section 287(g) to the Immigration and Nationality Act authorizing state officers and employees to enforce immigration laws, and

WHEREAS, the cross-designation between the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers and state and local patrol officers, detectives, investigators, and correctional officers provides local and state officers with the resources to pursue investigations relating to violent crime, human smuggling, gang and organized crime activity, sexual-related offenses, narcotics smuggling, and money laundering, and

WHEREAS, Collier County Sheriff Don Hunter recognized the benefit to the community of participating in this joint venture with ICE and entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with the Secretary of the United States Department of Homeland Security to cross-train Collier County Sheriff's Office deputies and corrections officers to enforce immigration laws, and

WHEREAS, the Collier County Sheriff's Office is the first

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30 | local law enforcement agency in Florida to complete the cross-
31 | training of officers who are empowered to identify violent
32 | criminal aliens, take those aliens into custody, and begin
33 | procedures for removing the aliens from Collier County, the State
34 | of Florida, and the United States, and

35 | WHEREAS, this innovative, landmark effort by Sheriff Don
36 | Hunter and the 27 officers of the Collier County Sheriff's Office
37 | will serve to make the State of Florida a place where criminal
38 | aliens will not seek respite and a safe haven from prosecution
39 | and deportation, thereby making our great state a safer place to
40 | live, work, and visit, and

41 | WHEREAS, Sheriff Don Hunter has established himself as a
42 | role model for all law enforcement leadership to follow in
43 | protecting the people of the State of Florida from criminal
44 | activities by those who are not legally residing in the United
45 | States, and

46 | WHEREAS, the State of Florida recognizes the benefit to the
47 | safety of its residents and visitors and the positive economic
48 | effect of these actions in deterring and limiting illegal
49 | activities of illegal aliens, NOW, THEREFORE,

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51 | Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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53 | That the Senate recognizes and commends Sheriff Don Hunter,
54 | the Collier County Sheriff's Office, and the 27 Collier County
55 | officers who have completed the United States Immigration and
56 | Customs Enforcement cross-training program.