

**Assembly Joint Resolution**

**No. 40**

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**Introduced by Assembly Members Nazarian and Levine**

**(Coauthors: Assembly Members Alejo, Atkins, Bloom, Bonilla, Bonta, Brown, Burke, Calderon, Campos, Chau, Chiu, Chu, Cooley, Cooper, Dababneh, Dodd, Eggman, Cristina Garcia, Gipson, Gomez, Gonzalez, Gray, Roger Hernández, Holden, Jones-Sawyer, Lopez, Low, Medina, Mullin, Quirk, Ridley-Thomas, Rodriguez, Salas, Santiago, Mark Stone, Ting, Weber, and Wood)**

(Coauthor: Senator Allen)

May 19, 2016

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Assembly Joint Resolution No. 40—Relative to the United States-Mexico border.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 40, as introduced, Nazarian. United States-Mexico border.

The measure would urge the Members of Congress to work to recognize Mexican American families' needs to visit family members in Mexico and increase commerce between our nations by reducing border delays through a more open border and to speak out against and to reject efforts to build a wall along the United States-Mexico border.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, California and Mexico share more than 130 miles
- 2 of an international border that is 1,954 miles long. The border
- 3 region is home to tremendous cultural history and economic
- 4 commerce between the United States and Mexico; and

1 WHEREAS, In California, 12 million (32 percent) of the 38  
2 million residents are of Mexican descent. California has one of  
3 the highest concentrations of Spanish speakers in the United States.  
4 In Southern California, between Los Angeles and the Mexican  
5 border, 40 percent of the population speaks Spanish. If the City of  
6 Los Angeles were in Mexico, its five million Mexican residents  
7 would make it the fourth largest city in Mexico (after Mexico City,  
8 Guadalajara, and Monterrey). Mexican Americans frequently find  
9 it challenging to travel back and forth between Mexico and  
10 California, thereby making family visits to Mexico difficult; and

11 WHEREAS, Achievements by Latinos in America and  
12 California include contributions to all facets of our community;  
13 and

14 WHEREAS, Latino voters continue to go to the polls in record  
15 numbers and influence the entrance of newly elected Latino public  
16 officials in both the Democratic and Republican parties and  
17 influence issues that encompass providing affordable housing,  
18 investing in our children, ensuring that higher education is  
19 affordable and accessible, creating good paying jobs for working  
20 families, and improving the overall quality of life for all  
21 Californians; and

22 WHEREAS, California's Latinos have contributed to the state's  
23 culture and society through their many achievements in music,  
24 food, dance, poetry, literature, architecture, entertainment, sports,  
25 and a broad spectrum of artistic expression; and

26 WHEREAS, Latinos in California have challenged the frontiers  
27 of social and economic justice, thereby improving the working  
28 conditions and lives of countless Californians; and

29 WHEREAS, Mexico has the largest network of free trade  
30 agreements in the world, with a total of 12 free trade agreements  
31 involving 44 countries, on three different continents. United States  
32 trade with Mexico and Canada has more than tripled since 1994.  
33 United States exports to Mexico increased from \$54.8 billion in  
34 1994 to \$226.2 billion in 2013. Imports from Mexico increased  
35 from \$51.6 billion in 1994 to \$280.5 billion in 2013. Mexico's  
36 economy has increasingly become oriented toward manufacturing.  
37 The United States has free trade agreements in force with 20  
38 markets around the world, including Mexico. In 2014, 47 percent  
39 (\$765.2 billion) of United States goods were exported to free trade  
40 agreement countries; and

1 WHEREAS, In 2014, California exported \$174.1 billion to 229  
2 foreign economies and accounted for 10.7 percent of total United  
3 States exports. In 2015, California’s largest export market was  
4 Mexico, which purchased \$26.8 billion (17.4 percent) of all the  
5 states exports in 2015; and

6 WHEREAS, Approximately 177,000 California jobs (17 percent  
7 of all export-supported jobs in California) are related to the  
8 commercial relationship with Mexico. Commerce, tourism, and  
9 foreign direct investment from Mexico support more than 200,000  
10 jobs in California (1.5 percent of the total number of payroll jobs  
11 in California); and

12 WHEREAS, Border crossing delays at the United States-Mexico  
13 border accounted for an estimated output loss of \$3.9 billion and  
14 a 30,000 national job loss due to reduced output in 2008. In  
15 California, losses were estimated at \$3.2 billion and a 25,000 job  
16 loss. Research shows that if border delays continue to grow,  
17 economic losses will continue to increase significantly by 2017  
18 and could cost the United States economy nearly 54,000 jobs and  
19 \$12 billion in output annually resulting in an estimated cumulative  
20 loss of \$86 billion. California’s cumulative economic loss in output  
21 due to in-state border delays over the next 10 years is estimated  
22 to be \$4.5 billion; and

23 WHEREAS, Some American political figures have proposed  
24 or publicly supported building a wall between the United States  
25 and Mexico. Using precast cement wall panels, it is estimated that  
26 it would take four years, 339 million cubic feet of concrete and 5  
27 billion pounds of reinforced steel to build the wall at a cost of  
28 approximately \$10.6 billion; now, therefore, be it

29 *Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*  
30 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature respectfully requests that  
31 the Members of Congress work to recognize Mexican American  
32 families’ needs to visit family members in Mexico and increase  
33 commerce between our nations by reducing border delays through  
34 a more open border and to speak out against and to reject efforts  
35 to build a wall along the United States-Mexico border; and be it  
36 further

37 *Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies  
38 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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