

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 21—COMMITTEE ON
LEGISLATIVE OPERATIONS AND ELECTIONS

MARCH 23, 2015

Referred to Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections

SUMMARY—Urges Congress to enact comprehensive immigration
reform. (BDR R-1266)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: No.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets [omitted material] is material to be omitted.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION—Urging Congress to enact
comprehensive immigration reform.

1 WHEREAS, The United States is a nation of immigrants that has
2 grown and strengthened in the diversity of its people; and

3 WHEREAS, The Constitution of the United States establishes that
4 this country offers equal treatment, opportunity and human dignity
5 to all residents of the United States, regardless of race, creed, color,
6 ethnicity or birthplace; and

7 WHEREAS, In search of this freedom and equality, millions of
8 immigrants have come to this country in pursuit of the American
9 dream; and

10 WHEREAS, While only 13 percent of the total population of the
11 United States are immigrants, nearly one-third of all new businesses
12 in the United States in 2011 were started by immigrants; and

13 WHEREAS, Since achieving statehood in 1864, the great State of
14 Nevada has welcomed immigrants, as reflected by the 1870 Census,
15 which accounted for over 44 percent of the population being
16 foreign-born; and

17 WHEREAS, Nevada takes pride in having built a strong
18 population of Nevadans from diverse backgrounds and cultures,
19 recently ranking fourth in the nation of states with the highest
20 percentages of immigrants; and

21 WHEREAS, Nevada is home to over one-half million foreign-
22 born immigrants, of whom over 40 percent have become naturalized



1 citizens, representing a ratio of nearly one in every five Nevadans;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, This diversity in the State of Nevada is also
4 comprised of talented students and hardworking persons who aspire
5 to become citizens of the United States and contribute to the
6 prosperity of this State which they call home; and

7 WHEREAS, The growth in our State's population has also been
8 driven by unauthorized immigrants who comprise approximately 8
9 percent of our population, including students and a workforce that
10 remains in the shadows of a broken immigration system; and

11 WHEREAS, Those unauthorized immigrants include families
12 with children who attend school and their parents who must provide
13 for them, contributing to our economy by paying approximately \$15
14 million in property taxes and almost \$110 million in sales taxes each
15 year; and

16 WHEREAS, Comprehensive immigration reform is the only
17 solution to avoid separation of such families and offer them a
18 chance to come out of the shadows and into mainstream America
19 and to have equal rights, obligations and fair treatment in the
20 workplace; and

21 WHEREAS, Such reform must include requirements that prohibit
22 and prevent criminals from coming into our country and the
23 mechanisms to reinforce our security at the borders, while ensuring
24 a pathway to citizenship to legalized immigrants who have proven
25 compliance with our laws and demonstrated fiscal responsibility;
26 and

27 WHEREAS, A guest worker program must be included in any
28 reform to deter illegal immigration while ensuring a qualified and
29 sufficient workforce to satisfy the needs of many industries,
30 including agriculture; and

31 WHEREAS, Such comprehensive immigration reform must also
32 include a funding system to address the entire spectrum of fiscal
33 impacts that will be experienced by state governments as a result of
34 implementing programs for guest workers and earned legalization
35 and of increasing the number of immigrants in our population; and

36 WHEREAS, Our elected federal officials must create an
37 immigration process that strengthens our nation's economy,
38 reinforces our border security and allows aspiring citizens to
39 continue making contributions to our communities, our State and
40 our nation; now, therefore, be it

41 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF
42 NEVADA, JOINTLY, That the members of the 78th Session of the
43 Nevada Legislature hereby urge Congress to enact comprehensive
44 immigration reform as outlined in this resolution which addresses:



1 1. Earned legal residency accompanied by a clear path to
2 citizenship;

3 2. The future immigration of families and workers;

4 3. Improved immigration enforcement and border security that
5 is consistent with our nation's values; and

6 4. A funding system to address the entire fiscal impact on our
7 State Government; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and
9 transmit a copy of this resolution to the President of the United
10 States, the Vice President of the United States as presiding officer of
11 the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of
12 Representatives and each member of the Nevada Congressional
13 Delegation; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon
15 passage.

