

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 a significant
9 percentage of our population, including students and a workforce
10 that 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 property taxes and
14 sales taxes; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



1 2. The future immigration of families and workers;
2 3. Improved immigration enforcement and border security that
3 is consistent with our nation's values; and

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

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

12 RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon
13 passage.

