

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 52nd Legislature (2009)

3 SENATE JOINT
4 RESOLUTION 6

By: Coates

5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 A Joint Resolution describing the failure of Congress
8 and the federal government to address growing
9 concerns on the issue of illegal immigration;
10 requesting Congressional action to reform immigration
11 policies; and direction distribution.

12 WHEREAS, the United States Congress has been unable to enact any
13 meaningful reform to our nation's immigration policy since the
14 passage of the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986; and

15 WHEREAS, the federal government at large has failed to enforce
16 the provisions of its immigration laws in such a way as to prevent
17 the integration of an estimated 12 to 20 million undocumented
18 persons into the population and workforce of the United States over
19 a period of decades; and

20 WHEREAS, this prolonged failure on the part of the federal
21 government, along with its own awareness of this failure,
22 essentially makes it complicit in the problem; and

23 WHEREAS, the persistence of this issue over decades has resulted
24 in a very real and vital incorporation of undocumented workers into

1 our economy, such that their removal could not be realistically
2 effected without negative and widespread financial consequences; and

3 WHEREAS, beyond economic considerations, outright deportation of
4 undocumented persons would be, in many cases, inhumane, inimical to
5 the stability of many families, and out of harmony with the image of
6 this country that we, its citizens, have continually sought to
7 cultivate - that the United States is a nation that thrives in the
8 confluence of all races, creeds, and religions, and affords equal
9 opportunity and respect to each; and

10 WHEREAS, in response to the concerns of citizens who have become
11 increasingly frustrated with the lack of congressional results on
12 the issue of immigration reform, state legislatures across the
13 nation have begun to introduce and enact their own immigration laws
14 in an effort to address these outstanding concerns, often to
15 controversial effect, creating an uneven patchwork of policies
16 which, in many cases, face challenges in federal courts on the
17 grounds that the enforcement of immigration law resides solely
18 within the jurisdiction of the federal government.

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF
20 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 52ND OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

21 THAT the United States Congress make every effort to overcome
22 all partisan hindrances to the reformation of the immigration laws
23 of this country, and reform such laws with the greatest possible
24 inclination toward fairness and humanitarianism, taking into

1 consideration the facts that the great majority of those who enter
2 into this country illegally do so without any motivation that can be
3 fairly described as criminal, risking the consequences of violating
4 an inefficient, expensive, and time-consuming set of procedures in
5 search of a better life, and that those employers who resort to the
6 employment of such persons very commonly do so not to deprive legal
7 residents of gainful employment or to pay lower wages than they
8 would otherwise pay to legal residents, but because they are faced
9 with economic demands that may not otherwise be met.

10 THAT Congress additionally consider these specific items in its
11 contemplation of immigration reform, in order to ease and streamline
12 the procedures whereby immigrants can enter legally into the United
13 States:

14 1. An increase in visa numbers for both temporary and permanent
15 visa programs;

16 2. The establishment of an efficient visa renewal process that
17 reduces lengthy delays;

18 3. The elimination of repetitive security checks that
19 unnecessarily prolong the issuance of visas;

20 4. The creation of a mechanism by which visa applicants and
21 their sponsors may inquire about the status of pending visa
22 applications;

23 5. The creation of a process by which applications pending for
24 more than 30 days are given priority processing;

1 6. The elimination of quota numbers for permanent visas;

2 7. The construction of several more processing centers along
3 all borders and coasts to reduce the time needed for the processing
4 of each individual applicant; and

5 8. The issuance of a single identification card that serves to
6 express a foreign-born individual's immigration status and work
7 authorization.

8 THAT copies of this resolution be distributed to the President
9 Pro Tempore of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United
10 States House of Representatives, and the Oklahoma Congressional
11 Delegation.

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