STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 54th Legislature (2013)

HOUSE
RESOLUTION 1014 By: Scott

AS INTRODUCED

A Resolution recognizing the many social and economic contributions immigrants make to the State of Oklahoma; urging Congress to enact comprehensive immigration reform; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, Oklahoma's identity is defined by its promise of equality, esteem for diversity and commitment to innovation; and

WHEREAS, the State of Oklahoma and America have prospered because of the contributions of hardworking, aspiring citizens; and

WHEREAS, we believe in the human dignity of all Oklahoma residents, regardless of immigration status and recognize the importance of the many contributions that immigrants make to the social and economic fabric of the State of Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, becoming a citizen of the United States means taking a solemn oath to uphold our nation's Constitution; and

WHEREAS, citizenship is an important symbol of full membership and participation in society that should be encouraged, not barred; and

WHEREAS, keeping families together not only is the right thing to do, but is also good for the economy because families provide a base of support that increases worker productivity and spurs entrepreneurship; and

WHEREAS, immigration enforcement will be much more efficient and effective once the number of undocumented immigrants in our midst is reduced due to immigration reform; and

WHEREAS, America's current immigration system is dysfunctional, harms our economy, and does not reflect the values of Oklahoma or our nation; and

WHEREAS, immigration is a federal responsibility and a comprehensive approach to solve our broken immigration system would strengthen our state and nation's economy and free aspiring citizens to make an even greater contribution to our communities; and

WHEREAS, the inability of the federal government to enact immigration reform has created severe economic, cultural and political strains here and in communities across America; and

WHEREAS, immigration reform must occur in a comprehensive, thoughtful manner that builds the strength and unity of working people, keeps families together, and guarantees the same rights, obligations, and basic fairness for all workers, no matter where they come from; and

WHEREAS, comprehensive immigration reform must include a realistic pathway to citizenship for all hardworking, taxpaying,

aspiring citizens who live in the United States if they meet reasonable requirements; and

WHEREAS, comprehensive immigration reform must provide a mechanism for aspiring citizens who have grown up in this country to become citizens and be able to fully contribute to our joint future; and

WHEREAS, comprehensive immigration reform must update the legal immigration system so that the future flow of immigrant workers more realistically matches the labor needs of our nation and is structured to protect the wages and working conditions of workers of the United States and immigrant workers; and

WHEREAS, any new worker visa program must provide for strict compliance with United States labor standards and wage and hour standards, portability of visas so that workers can change jobs, and the ability for workers to petition for permanent residency; and

WHEREAS, comprehensive immigration reform must reduce the unreasonable wait times and arbitrary rules that keep families separated from their loved ones; and

WHEREAS, comprehensive immigration reform enforcement provisions must restore respect for law by promoting strict adherence to the values of our nation including due process, civil and human rights, accountability, and proportionality; and

WHEREAS, internal and border law enforcement should focus on preventing criminals and drug cartels from entering the United States or engaging in criminal activities; and

WHEREAS, the Oklahoma Legislature supports a comprehensive immigration reform bill that keeps families together, upholds our values as a nation, promotes economic growth, and provides a long-term solution to the immigration problem; and

WHEREAS, our elected officials must create an immigration process that strengthens the economy of our nation and lets aspiring citizens continue their contributions to our communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 54TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives urges the 113th Congress to enact comprehensive immigration reform as outlined in this resolution that addresses earned legalization with a path to citizenship, updated future immigration of families and workers, and improved immigration enforcement and border security that is consistent with the values of our nation.

THAT the Oklahoma Secretary of State transmit a copy of this resolution to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress, each member of the Oklahoma Congressional Delegation, the Governor of the State of Oklahoma, the Speaker of the Oklahoma House of Representatives

and the President Pro Tempore of the Oklahoma State Senate.

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