



HR0318

LRB102 18532 MST 26764 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Illinois is home to a large immigrant community
3 that has contributed tremendously to our State; in 2018, 1.8
4 million immigrants comprised 14 percent of the population of
5 the State of Illinois; and

6 WHEREAS, Throughout the last year, the immigrant community
7 has been on the front lines in the fight against the COVID-19
8 pandemic, including, but not limited to, making up a large
9 portion of the essential workforce as the country and the
10 State went into a lockdown; and

11 WHEREAS, Nearly six million essential immigrant workers in
12 the United States are uncertain about their future ability to
13 reside in the country; some individuals are employed as U.S.
14 temporary workers, while others have a protected status, and
15 still others do not have documentation of lawful immigration
16 status; and

17 WHEREAS, A large population of undocumented immigrants has
18 lived in the U.S. for more than a decade and are caregivers for
19 children who are U.S. citizens; in 2017, approximately 5.9
20 million children who are U.S. citizens had at least one
21 caregiver who did not have legal status in the U.S.; and

1 WHEREAS, One in seven State residents is an immigrant,
2 more than one in six workers is an immigrant, and close to
3 one-third of all business owners in the Chicago metro area are
4 immigrants; and

5 WHEREAS, The immigrant community has contributed
6 significantly to Illinois in many ways, including the
7 community's contribution to the State's economy; in 2018,
8 immigrant-led households in the State paid \$12.7 billion in
9 federal taxes and \$7.7 billion in state and local taxes;
10 137,907 immigrant business owners accounted for 23 percent of
11 all self-employed residents and generated \$2.8 billion in
12 business income; and

13 WHEREAS, The effects of immigration enforcement actions
14 are felt by the individual, their family, and the larger
15 community; it is undisputed that the separation of a child
16 from a parent due to immigration enforcement action is
17 associated with economic hardship, housing instability, and
18 food insecurity; in addition, following an immigration
19 enforcement action against a family member, children have
20 demonstrated numerous emotional and behavioral challenges,
21 even if the children are reunited with the family member at a
22 later point; and

23 WHEREAS, Historically, U.S. policies have deeply impacted

1 the stability, economic conditions, and violence in countries
2 from which many immigrants originally migrated to build a home
3 in this country and this State; and

4 WHEREAS, The immigrant community and its allies have
5 continuously fought to advance human rights and protections
6 for individuals living in the U.S. who live in constant fear of
7 law enforcement and cruel immigration enforcement actions; and

8 WHEREAS, It has been decades since the enactment of any
9 major reform to our nation's immigration laws; this inertia
10 has deeply impacted immigrant communities, as demonstrated by
11 the continuous harsh ICE enforcement actions and separation of
12 families; in 2019 for example, ICE carried out 226,000
13 deportations; and

14 WHEREAS, Congress has debated numerous immigration reforms
15 over the last two decades without great success, which has led
16 the courts and the executive branch to take some temporary
17 measures to address certain aspects of this nation's
18 immigration law; and

19 WHEREAS, There is significant public support for the
20 reformation of our country's immigration laws and the
21 advancement of immigrant rights in the U.S. and Illinois; 81
22 percent of Americans support a path to citizenship for

1 undocumented immigrants; and

2 WHEREAS, There are currently several bills before Congress
3 that will help advance the rights and protections for the
4 immigrant community in the United States, including HR1435
5 American Right to Family Act, HR536 New Way Forward Act,
6 HR1537 Farmworker Modernization Act of 2021, HR6 Dream &
7 Promise Act, HR161 Venezuelan TPS Act of 2021, HR530 REUNITE
8 Act, HR1177 U.S. Citizenship Act, S264 DREAM Act of 2021, and
9 S291 National Office of New Americans Act; and

10 WHEREAS, These bills currently before Congress present an
11 opportunity for our nation to take the necessary action to
12 move our country forward and recognize the human rights of the
13 immigrant community in our country and State of Illinois;
14 therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
16 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
17 we urge the U.S. Congress to take action in passing the
18 necessary legislation to advance the human rights and
19 protections of the immigrant community in the United States;
20 and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
22 delivered to the President of the United States, the U.S.

1 Senate Majority Leader, the U.S. Senate Minority Leader, the
2 U.S. Speaker of the House, the U.S. House of Representatives
3 Minority Leader, and all members of the Illinois Congressional
4 Delegation.