



1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The State of Illinois and the United States of  
3 America were founded by immigrants who traveled from around the  
4 world to seek a better life; and

5 WHEREAS, Immigrants have made enormous contributions to  
6 our nation's economic, cultural, and political life, and these  
7 contributions have been recognized and honored throughout our  
8 history and across the political spectrum; and

9 WHEREAS, Our nation's immigration system should uphold our  
10 basic values of family, economic opportunity, and fairness; and

11 WHEREAS, The U.S. immigration system is in disarray and in  
12 need of comprehensive reform: immigrants who are eager to  
13 rejoin family members or willing to work in the U.S. are unable  
14 to immigrate under the current system or face long backlogs;  
15 and

16 WHEREAS, The mismatch between our nation's immigration  
17 laws and our economic needs and family values has led to deaths  
18 on the border, a large underground market in false documents,  
19 and an undocumented population of eleven million immigrants,  
20 including half a million in Illinois, and widespread disregard  
21 for our immigration laws; and

22 WHEREAS, President Bush and leaders of both political  
23 parties in both chambers of Congress recognize the need for  
24 realistic, common-sense, humane solutions for our immigration  
25 problems; and

26 WHEREAS, U.S. Senators John McCain, Republican of Arizona,  
27 and Edward Kennedy, Democrat of Massachusetts, and U.S.  
28 Representatives Jim Kolbe and Jeff Flake, Republicans from  
29 Arizona, and Luis Gutierrez, Democrat from Illinois, have

1 proposed legislation offering such solutions; and

2 WHEREAS, Their proposed legislation includes cutting  
3 through our current immigration backlogs to reunite families  
4 sooner; a guestworker program, similar to that proposed by  
5 President Bush, that would provide a safe and orderly way for  
6 willing immigrant workers to fill essential jobs in our  
7 economy; realistic enforcement strategies to ensure the  
8 security of our nation's borders; and a means for hardworking  
9 immigrants to earn legal status, upon paying a penalty for  
10 their time in the U.S. out of status, and to eventually become  
11 U.S. citizens; and

12 WHEREAS, By restoring order to our immigration system, such  
13 reforms will make our nation more secure as well as meet our  
14 labor needs and uphold our basic values as a nation; and

15 WHEREAS, In a recent bipartisan poll, 77% of respondents  
16 supported such comprehensive reform to our immigration system;  
17 and

18 WHEREAS, Comprehensive immigration reform is supported by  
19 business, organized labor, faith communities, and other  
20 leaders and sectors in our country; therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
22 NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE  
23 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that we do hereby wholeheartedly  
24 support comprehensive immigration reform and the  
25 McCain-Kennedy legislation, and we urge the United States  
26 Congress to enact this legislation; and be it further

27 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
28 presented to the President pro-tem of the U.S. Senate, the  
29 Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, and to each  
30 member of the Illinois Congressional delegation.