

IN THE SENATE

SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 102

BY STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

1 TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, AND THE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION REPRESENTING THE STATE OF IDAHO IN THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES.

2 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and the House of Representatives of the State of Idaho assembled in the Second Regular Session of the Sixty-seventh Idaho Legislature, do hereby respectfully represent that:

3 WHEREAS, the federal government of the United States is vested with the responsibility and authority to establish terms of naturalization, to prevent illegal immigration, and to otherwise establish, regulate, and enforce the terms and conditions upon which aliens may enter the United States from foreign places and upon which they may remain in the United States, what activities aliens may engage in while present in the United States, terms of permanent residency, and the granting of citizenship, in addition to control of the United States border; and

4 WHEREAS, the Congress and President of the United States have failed to fulfill their constitutional responsibility as it pertains to immigration law and policy, have failed to provide a secure border, have failed to consistently and uniformly enforce existing immigration law, and have failed to provide a robust and efficient system for entry of guest workers to the United States capable of meeting the labor demands of United States businesses; and

5 WHEREAS, as a result of these failures of the federal government to prevent illegal immigration, tremendous challenges are placed upon state and local governments to provide for the general health and welfare of all persons within their jurisdictions, whether that relates to education, enforcement of state and local law, health care, highway safety, and more; and

6 WHEREAS, as a further result of these failures of the federal government to prevent illegal immigration, the security of the United States and of the several states, including Idaho, is threatened and harmed by the unavailability of lawful labor needed to harvest, process, and transport the domestic food supply, to extract mineral, gas, oil, and timber resources, to build homes, businesses and highways, and to provide other basic life necessities, the lack of which leads to increased dependence on foreign production and threatens our national security; and

7 WHEREAS, as a further result of these failures of the federal government to prevent illegal immigration, the security of the United States and of the several states, including Idaho, is threatened and harmed by unlawful entry to the United States of those who seek to cause us harm, human traffickers, and drug traffickers; and

8 WHEREAS, the Department of Homeland Security estimates that there are approximately 11.4 million people present in the United States without law-

1 ful status, and data from the Census of Agriculture indicates that approxi-
2 mately 2.4 million of them are employed in agriculture; and

3 WHEREAS, data indicates that in the year 2021 approximately 7.8 million
4 unauthorized immigrants were working in the United States performing labor-
5 intensive jobs in agriculture, construction, food processing, hospitality,
6 and other industries that are critical to economic prosperity; and

7 WHEREAS, the United States is facing a tremendous labor shortage de-
8 spite the contribution to the workforce from unauthorized immigrants, and
9 current data suggests that there are 1.7 million more jobs available in the
10 United States than there are unemployed workers; and

11 WHEREAS, it is incumbent upon the Congress and President of the United
12 States to strengthen our national security and the security of the several
13 states, including Idaho, by adopting targeted, common sense, business-fo-
14 cused, market-driven immigration reform, which at its core must include the
15 following in concert:

16 (1) An effective system of external and internal security at and within
17 the borders of the United States that excludes from entry people who do not
18 have lawful permission to enter the United States and that incorporates mod-
19 ern technology to prevent, deter, detect, and detain those who seek to enter
20 the United States by unlawful means; and

21 (2) An effective guest worker program that meets the labor needs and de-
22 mands of year-round agriculture, construction, hospitality, food process-
23 ing, manufacturing, technology, and other market sectors, and in particular
24 allows cyclical worker visas of adequate length to meet the labor demands of
25 Idaho agriculture and business; and

26 (3) Not granting amnesty to those currently in the United States with-
27 out legal status; and

28 WHEREAS, targeted immigration reform is of vital necessity to the cit-
29 izens and businesses of the State of Idaho, and as such it is incumbent upon
30 the congressional delegation representing the State of Idaho in the Congress
31 of the United States to be outspoken and fervent leaders and continue to be
32 advocates for immigration reform consistent with the principles set forth in
33 this Joint Memorial.

34 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular
35 Session of the Sixty-seventh Idaho Legislature, the Senate and the House of
36 Representatives concurring therein, that the Idaho Legislature requests and
37 calls upon the President of the United States and the Senate and the House
38 of Representatives of the United States to take action with all deliberate
39 speed to adopt and implement targeted immigration reform in a manner consis-
40 tent with the principles set forth in this Joint Memorial.

41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the congressional delegation representing
42 the State of Idaho in the Congress of the United States is requested and
43 called upon to take action with all deliberate speed to advocate for and in-
44 troduce federal legislation implementing targeted immigration reform in a
45 manner consistent with the principles set forth in this Joint Memorial.

46 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate be, and she is
47 hereby authorized and directed to forward a copy of this Joint Memorial
48 to the President of the United States, the President of the Senate and the
49 Speaker of the House of Representatives of Congress, and the congressional

1 delegation representing the State of Idaho in the Congress of the United
2 States.