

ONE HUNDRED SECOND LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 39

Introduced by Council, 11; Ashford, 20; Nordquist, 7; Wightman, 36.

Read first time January 18, 2011

Committee: Judiciary

WHEREAS, failure to update our federal immigration system separates Nebraska families, destabilizes Nebraska communities, and creates uncertainty, inefficiency, and an unlevel playing field for Nebraska's businesses and economy; and

WHEREAS, the forced separation of working parents from their children weakens families and damages society; and

WHEREAS, failure to address the system where it can be fixed - at the federal level - has left states searching for solutions in ways that have been costly and divisive.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST SESSION:

1. That the Legislature recommends the following basic principles as a guide for state and federal policy on immigration:

a. Immigration is a federal policy issue between the United States Government and other countries - not Nebraska and other countries. The Legislature urges the Nebraska Congressional Delegation to take action to create a workable immigration system that upholds our values and moves us forward;

b. The Legislature respects the rule of law and supports law enforcement's professional judgment and discretion. Local law enforcement resources should focus on criminal activities, not civil violations of federal code;

c. Strong families are the foundation of successful communities. The Legislature opposes policies that unnecessarily separate families. The Legislature champions policies that support families and improve the health, education, and well-being of all Nebraska children;

d. The Legislature acknowledges the important economic role immigrant Nebraskans play as workers, entrepreneurs, and taxpayers; and

e. Immigration is an important part of our past and our future. As in the past, immigrants are integrated into communities across Nebraska. We must adopt a humane approach to this reality, reflecting our values, history, and spirit of inclusion. The way we treat immigrants will say more about us as a society and less about our immigrant neighbors. Nebraska should always be a place that welcomes people of goodwill. Our communities and our future will be best served by doing so.

2. That the Legislature urgently calls upon the Nebraska Congressional Delegation and the United States Congress to enact thorough, commonsense, workable, and humane reforms that reflect the realities of our country's workforce needs and our families and represent America at its best.

3. That a copy of this resolution be delivered to the President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States House of

Representatives, the President of the United States Senate, and each member of the Nebraska Congressional Delegation.