

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 26

2 49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2010

3 INTRODUCED BY

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO ENACT COMPREHENSIVE
12 IMMIGRATION REFORM.

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14 WHEREAS, the New Mexico legislature recognizes the
15 economic, social and cultural contributions that immigrants
16 bring to New Mexico's communities; and

17 WHEREAS, current federal immigration laws are outdated and
18 greatly restrict opportunities for workers and their families
19 to immigrate legally; and

20 WHEREAS, the New Mexico legislature, with broad support
21 from law enforcement, faith, business, labor and community
22 organizations, has passed laws intended to integrate immigrants
23 into New Mexico communities, such as the provision of driver's
24 licenses and in-state tuition at state colleges to qualified
25 persons regardless of immigration status; and

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1 WHEREAS, many local governments have passed resolutions,
2 ordinances and policy directives recognizing that it is the
3 role of the federal government to enforce civil immigration
4 laws; and

5 WHEREAS, many local governments have acted to affirm
6 non-participation in the enforcement of civil immigration law
7 by city officials and agencies; and

8 WHEREAS, despite a ten-fold increase in the United States
9 border patrol's budget in the last twenty years, the
10 unauthorized immigrant population has tripled over the last two
11 decades, demonstrating that an enforcement-only approach to
12 unauthorized immigration is costly and ineffective; and

13 WHEREAS, the separation of families by raids and other
14 activities enforces the current broken immigration system and
15 destroys families; and

16 WHEREAS, families thus separated deserve to be reunited,
17 especially those families of mixed status, with children who
18 are United States citizens; and

19 WHEREAS, undocumented immigrants currently living in the
20 United States would benefit from a federal process whereby they
21 could earn legal status through payment of appropriate fees and
22 other reasonable requirements; and

23 WHEREAS, an efficient immigration program would enable
24 businesses to hire qualified foreign workers to meet local
25 economic demands and thereby enhance the economy; and

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