

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 155

Expressing the necessity for the Members of the House of Representatives to use the term “undocumented” instead of the term “illegal” when referring to foreign nationals which are working in the United States without proper documentation.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 12, 2013

Mr. RUSH submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the
Committee on the Judiciary

RESOLUTION

Expressing the necessity for the Members of the House of Representatives to use the term “undocumented” instead of the term “illegal” when referring to foreign nationals which are working in the United States without proper documentation.

Whereas the term(s) or phrase “undocumented immigrant, non citizen, or people here in violation of the immigration laws” should be used instead of “illegal alien” when referring to persons who reside in the United States without proper documentation;

Whereas there are an estimated eleven million people residing in the United States without legal permission, the acts of these people may be illegal but they themselves are not illegal;

Whereas the use of the term is included in Public Law 104–208, Division C “Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996”;

Whereas the term “illegal alien” may cause negative sentiments toward the targeted population, it is our responsibility to encourage a national dialogue that is respectful of humanity and frame a debate that is productive and free of terms that label a person’s status as illegal or creates a negative connotation and ill will towards that person;

Whereas all parties have expressed a desire for comprehensive immigration reform;

Whereas the use of the term has caused delay in the negotiations of immigration reform; and

Whereas it would give us the opportunity to move forward in the process of revising United States immigration laws with a universal term: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That—

2 (1) Members of the House of Representatives
3 no longer use the term “Illegal Immigrant” because
4 no human being is illegal;

5 (2) human beings need to be central in immi-
6 gration discussions in order to move toward a more
7 civilized and humane tone in public discourse and
8 policies on immigration; and

9 (3) foreign nationals, undocumented immigrant,
10 unauthorized immigrant, immigrant without papers
11 and immigrant seeking status are examples of terms

1 we can use that do not dehumanize people. We can
2 all stop unintentionally fueling racial profiling and
3 violence directed toward immigrants, when we drop
4 the word “illegal” when discussing a human being.

