

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 52

2 **51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2013**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Joseph Cervantes

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

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

13
14 WHEREAS, the state of New Mexico shares one hundred eighty
15 miles of border with the country of Mexico and as a result
16 encounters unique issues arising from immigration from Mexico,
17 South America and Central America; and

18 WHEREAS, New Mexico shares historic, cultural, family and
19 economic ties to Mexico; and

20 WHEREAS, it is estimated that twelve million immigrants
21 reside and work in the United States without legal immigration
22 status; and

23 WHEREAS, comprehensive immigration reform aligns with
24 American core principles of opportunity, prosperity,
25 entrepreneurialism, rewarding hard work and family unity; and

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1 WHEREAS, the United States enjoys a history of embracing
2 immigrants who have been absorbed into the republic; and

3 WHEREAS, the current federal immigration system
4 perpetuates the separation of families; and

5 WHEREAS, despite a ten-fold increase in the United States
6 border patrol's budget and increased border patrol agents along
7 the southern border in the last twenty years, the unauthorized
8 immigrant population remains at an estimated twelve million,
9 demonstrating that an enforcement-only approach to unauthorized
10 immigration is costly and ineffective; and

11 WHEREAS, New Mexicans understand that immigrants and the
12 border bring together communities economically and socially;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, new immigrants are potential and much-needed
15 workers in New Mexico's and the nation's economies and can
16 alleviate the shortage of workers in a variety of job sectors;
17 and

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

21 WHEREAS, individual states have attempted various
22 solutions to immigration challenges and those solutions have
23 been deemed unlawful or ineffective; and

24 WHEREAS, having states adopt conflicting immigration
25 reforms and policies is detrimental to national cohesion; and

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