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SENATE MEMORIAL 43

**47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2006**

INTRODUCED BY

Mary Kay Papen

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO PASS  
COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM.

WHEREAS, the United States is a nation of immigrants with  
a proud tradition of welcoming immigrants from countries all  
over the world; and

WHEREAS, all parties and political perspectives  
acknowledge that the current immigration system is not working  
and is badly in need of reform; and

WHEREAS, the escalating immigration problem cannot be  
treated with a band-aid; and

WHEREAS, current federal immigration laws are outdated and  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

WHEREAS, the United States has seen the emergence of a

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1 black market for the importation of immigrant labor and a  
2 sizable population of approximately fifteen million people who  
3 are working and residing in the United States without legal  
4 status; and

5 WHEREAS, these immigrants make vital contributions to the  
6 economic stability and cultural richness of this country; and

7 WHEREAS, current immigration and border policies have  
8 proved ineffective in stemming the flow of immigrants and have  
9 failed to prevent human trafficking and smuggling, deaths and  
10 criminal activity in the border regions; and

11 WHEREAS, the government can better implement security  
12 measures that would effectively protect the nation from  
13 criminals, terrorists and others that seek to do us harm only  
14 when the United States has established an orderly flow of  
15 immigration and has permitted unauthorized workers to emerge  
16 from their undocumented situations; and

17 WHEREAS, in order to defend our borders effectively, the  
18 federal government should implement cost-effective measures  
19 using smart inspections and screening practices and efficient  
20 processing; and

21 WHEREAS, the long-term solution to all these problems is  
22 to bring immigration laws into conformity with the demands of  
23 the economy by permitting productive workers to remain in the  
24 country and future workers to enter the country with temporary  
25 or permanent visas to fill available jobs that require their

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1 skills;

2 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE  
3 OF NEW MEXICO that the congress of the United States be  
4 requested to pass comprehensive immigration reform containing  
5 the following elements:

6 A. a legalization program that includes a path to  
7 citizenship for immigrant workers and their families who are  
8 presently in the United States without legal status;

9 B. immigration policies that provide a safe,  
10 orderly and rational framework for future immigration,  
11 accommodating the needs of willing immigrant workers and  
12 willing United States employers; and

13 C. immigration laws and policies that protect the  
14 rights of workers and preserve the unity of families; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
16 transmitted to the members of the New Mexico congressional  
17 delegation, the national conference of state legislatures and  
18 the national governors association.