

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 44

2 49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2009

3 INTRODUCED BY

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 DENOUNCING ANTI-HISPANIC BIAS AND ACTIONS IN IMMIGRATION
12 MATTERS AND REQUESTING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO ENACT
13 COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM THAT PROTECTS AND PROMOTES
14 AMERICA'S SECURITY AND HUMANITARIAN AND ECONOMIC INTERESTS.

15
16 WHEREAS, security precautions are necessary to protect the
17 integrity of the United States' borders and the well-being of
18 the American people; and

19 WHEREAS, the United States has every right as a sovereign
20 nation to control its border and immigration policies; and

21 WHEREAS, immigration policy should also promote and
22 protect the civil and human rights of immigrants and their
23 families and the economic security of the United States; and

24 WHEREAS, the United States was founded and has flourished
25 as a nation of immigrants, as President John F. Kennedy

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1 emphasized when he wrote, "Everywhere, immigrants have enriched
2 and strengthened the fabric of American life", and "Every
3 aspect of the American economy has profited from the
4 contributions of immigrants"; and

5 WHEREAS, as a border state with Mexico, New Mexico is
6 proud of its rich cultural traditions, largely based on
7 Hispanic immigrants who have contributed immensely to the
8 history of New Mexico and the accomplishments of its
9 inhabitants at all levels of society and in all fields of
10 endeavor; and

11 WHEREAS, the New Mexico legislature has a strong history
12 of supporting anti-discrimination policies in the state; and

13 WHEREAS, in response to the alleged threat that
14 undocumented persons pose to American society, vigilante groups
15 have formed, primarily in neighboring states, to conduct their
16 own unauthorized patrols along the United States-Mexico border,
17 and they use anti-immigrant and xenophobic rhetoric to exploit
18 mainstream fears of unchecked immigration and promote a message
19 of intolerance of immigrants from Mexico, Central America and
20 South America and of undocumented persons and Hispanics in
21 general; and

22 WHEREAS, a safe and secure border cannot be achieved
23 through civilian vigilantism; and

24 WHEREAS, members of hate groups, such as neo-Nazi and
25 white supremacist groups, have expressed support for civilian

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1 patrol and anti-immigration groups through participation in
2 patrols, protests and rallies and have used virulent anti-
3 immigrant and anti-Hispanic rhetoric; and

4 WHEREAS, the current chaotic system whereby immigrants
5 embark on a dangerous journey to attempt to cross America's
6 southern border fosters an environment in which smugglers and
7 human traffickers flourish and in which extremist groups foment
8 anti-immigrant bigotry; and

9 WHEREAS, coordinated efforts by federal, state and local
10 law enforcement officials are necessary to monitor the
11 activities of civilian border patrols and extremist groups in
12 order to maintain safety and public order and to protect and
13 promote human and civil rights; and

14 WHEREAS, as President John F. Kennedy wrote, "Immigration
15 policy should be generous; it should be fair; it should be
16 flexible"; and

17 WHEREAS, effective comprehensive immigration reform should
18 include border security technology and screening enhancements,
19 improved databases, more extensive international coordination
20 and more effective tracking of visas for persons permitted to
21 enter the United States temporarily; and

22 WHEREAS, immigration administration policies should
23 recognize that basic human and civil rights of all people are
24 deserving of respect and all immigration proceedings should
25 meet high standards for compliance with the rule of law in all

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1 processes that relate to deportation, detention and immigration
2 status; and

3 WHEREAS, United States policy has historically made it a
4 priority for immigrant families to remain together, but current
5 backlogs in processing legitimate requests have kept families
6 separated for many years and, in some cases, have split
7 families apart; and

8 WHEREAS, the United States economy and numerous
9 responsible and well-intentioned employers depend on immigrant
10 workers to fulfill what would otherwise be critically unmet
11 needs, and a properly administered temporary or guest worker
12 program can promote and protect the economic security of the
13 United States; and

14 WHEREAS, the concerns expressed in this memorial have been
15 promoted by the anti-defamation league in a document entitled
16 the "Declaration of Los Angeles", which has been endorsed by
17 many groups, including the national council of la raza, the
18 league of united Latin American citizens and the Mexican
19 American legal defense and education fund, and approved by the
20 state of California in its Assembly Joint Resolution No. 16
21 (Resolution Chapter 118, 2007);

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
23 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that anti-Hispanic bias and actions in
24 immigration matters be hereby denounced; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that extremist groups that advocate

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1 bigotry or racism, armed citizen response or vigilantism in any
2 form subvert the democratic process and fundamental values of
3 the United States; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature be requested
5 to call upon the federal government to enact comprehensive and
6 effective immigration reforms that:

7 A. protect and provide for a safe and secure United
8 States;

9 B. recognize the basic human rights of all persons,
10 including immigrants and undocumented persons, and hold to the
11 highest standards of human rights and dignity all law
12 enforcement and judicial processes that relate to deportation,
13 detention and immigration status; and

14 C. provide for a fair and effective temporary or
15 guest worker program that protects and enhances the economic
16 security of the United States; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
18 transmitted to all members of the New Mexico congressional
19 delegation, to the speaker of the United States house of
20 representatives, to the majority leader of the United States
21 senate and to the president of the United States.