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HOUSE MEMORIAL 60

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

INTRODUCED BY

Miguel P. Garcia

A MEMORIAL

URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO ENACT COMPREHENSIVE
IMMIGRATION REFORM.

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

WHEREAS, current federal immigration laws are outdated and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

WHEREAS, the New Mexico legislature, with broad support
from law enforcement, faith, business, labor and community
organizations, has passed laws intended to integrate immigrants
into New Mexico communities, such as the provision of driver's
licenses and in-state tuition at state colleges to qualified
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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1 WHEREAS, immigration reform must occur in a comprehensive,
2 thoughtful manner that focuses on the creation of economic
3 opportunities and that strengthens families and communities;

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
5 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the United
6 States congress be urged to enact comprehensive immigration
7 reform legislation; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this legislation include
9 elements to ensure efficient border security; the reunification
10 of immigrant families; a path to citizenship for undocumented
11 workers currently in the United States; a legal means of
12 immigration for foreign nationals who want to work in the
13 United States temporarily, as well as for those who desire to
14 become legal permanent residents or gain citizenship; resources
15 to help cities alleviate the economic impact of delivering
16 services to new residents; and resources to help cities
17 integrate new residents into their communities; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be
19 sent to the members of the New Mexico congressional delegation.

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