

1 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3 1st Session of the 54th Legislature (2013)

4 HOUSE
5 RESOLUTION 1014

 By: Scott

6
7 AS INTRODUCED

8 A Resolution recognizing the many social and economic
9 contributions immigrants make to the State of
10 Oklahoma; urging Congress to enact comprehensive
11 immigration reform; and directing distribution.

12
13 WHEREAS, Oklahoma's identity is defined by its promise of
14 equality, esteem for diversity and commitment to innovation; and

15 WHEREAS, the State of Oklahoma and America have prospered
16 because of the contributions of hardworking, aspiring citizens; and

17 WHEREAS, we believe in the human dignity of all Oklahoma
18 residents, regardless of immigration status and recognize the
19 importance of the many contributions that immigrants make to the
20 social and economic fabric of the State of Oklahoma; and

21 WHEREAS, becoming a citizen of the United States means taking a
22 solemn oath to uphold our nation's Constitution; and
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1 WHEREAS, citizenship is an important symbol of full membership
2 and participation in society that should be encouraged, not barred;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, keeping families together not only is the right thing
5 to do, but is also good for the economy because families provide a
6 base of support that increases worker productivity and spurs
7 entrepreneurship; and

8 WHEREAS, immigration enforcement will be much more efficient and
9 effective once the number of undocumented immigrants in our midst is
10 reduced due to immigration reform; and

11 WHEREAS, America's current immigration system is dysfunctional,
12 harms our economy, and does not reflect the values of Oklahoma or
13 our nation; and

14 WHEREAS, immigration is a federal responsibility and a
15 comprehensive approach to solve our broken immigration system would
16 strengthen our state and nation's economy and free aspiring citizens
17 to make an even greater contribution to our communities; and

18 WHEREAS, the inability of the federal government to enact
19 immigration reform has created severe economic, cultural and
20 political strains here and in communities across America; and

21 WHEREAS, immigration reform must occur in a comprehensive,
22 thoughtful manner that builds the strength and unity of working
23 people, keeps families together, and guarantees the same rights,
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1 obligations, and basic fairness for all workers, no matter where
2 they come from; and

3 WHEREAS, comprehensive immigration reform must include a
4 realistic pathway to citizenship for all hardworking, taxpaying,
5 aspiring citizens who live in the United States if they meet
6 reasonable requirements; and

7 WHEREAS, comprehensive immigration reform must provide a
8 mechanism for aspiring citizens who have grown up in this country to
9 become citizens and be able to fully contribute to our joint future;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, comprehensive immigration reform must update the legal
12 immigration system so that the future flow of immigrant workers more
13 realistically matches the labor needs of our nation and is
14 structured to protect the wages and working conditions of workers of
15 the United States and immigrant workers; and

16 WHEREAS, any new worker visa program must provide for strict
17 compliance with United States labor standards and wage and hour
18 standards, portability of visas so that workers can change jobs, and
19 the ability for workers to petition for permanent residency; and

20 WHEREAS, comprehensive immigration reform must reduce the
21 unreasonable wait times and arbitrary rules that keep families
22 separated from their loved ones; and

23 WHEREAS, comprehensive immigration reform enforcement provisions
24 must restore respect for law by promoting strict adherence to the

1 values of our nation including due process, civil and human rights,
2 accountability, and proportionality; and

3 WHEREAS, internal and border law enforcement should focus on
4 preventing criminals and drug cartels from entering the United
5 States or engaging in criminal activities; and

6 WHEREAS, the Oklahoma Legislature supports a comprehensive
7 immigration reform bill that keeps families together, upholds our
8 values as a nation, promotes economic growth, and provides a long-
9 term solution to the immigration problem; and

10 WHEREAS, our elected officials must create an immigration
11 process that strengthens the economy of our nation and lets aspiring
12 citizens continue their contributions to our communities.

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
14 OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 54TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

15 THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives urges the 113th
16 Congress to enact comprehensive immigration reform as outlined in
17 this resolution that addresses earned legalization with a path to
18 citizenship, updated future immigration of families and workers, and
19 improved immigration enforcement and border security that is
20 consistent with the values of our nation.

21 THAT the Oklahoma Secretary of State transmit a copy of this
22 resolution to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the
23 House of Representatives of the United States Congress, each member
24 of the Oklahoma Congressional Delegation, the Governor of the State

1 of Oklahoma, the Speaker of the Oklahoma House of Representatives
2 and the President Pro Tempore of the Oklahoma State Senate.
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4 DIRECT TO CALENDAR.
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