

ONE HUNDRED FIRST LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 223

Introduced by Council, 11.

Read first time January 11, 2008

Committee:

WHEREAS, the State of Nebraska recognizes its immigrant history of hard-working families coming to our state to make a better life for themselves; and

WHEREAS, immigrants have always been an important part of the social and economic fabric of the State of Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, in recent years new immigrants are once again coming to the State of Nebraska, helping to boost our population and revitalize our communities; and

WHEREAS, the economic and other contributions of these newcomers to our state are significant and include paying taxes and contributing to our schools, churches, neighborhoods, and communities; and

WHEREAS, our federal immigration system is broken, leaving local communities and the state to grapple with the consequences. This broken system has also led to lost opportunities; and

WHEREAS, our federal immigration system should uphold our basic values of family, economic opportunity, and fairness; and

WHEREAS, by restoring order to our federal immigration

system, such reform will make our nation more secure, help to meet our labor needs, and uphold our basic values as a nation; and

WHEREAS, the need for rational and humane immigration reform is recognized by businesses, educators, faith communities, labor groups, state and local elected officials, and other leaders and sectors in the State of Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, the State of Nebraska recognizes that there is now a movement and a real possibility to enact meaningful immigration reform at the federal level.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST SESSION:

1. That the Legislature urges the members of Nebraska's congressional delegation to work to pass rational and humane immigration reform which simultaneously addresses the following:

a. The situation of undocumented workers currently in the United States;

b. The future flow of undocumented workers into the United States;

c. The need for tailored, targeted, and effective enforcement that respects the human and legal rights of all involved;

d. Support for the successful integration of newcomers into the communities where they settle; and

e. The need to ensure full due process rights for all.

2. That the Legislature further urges the members of Nebraska's congressional delegation to ensure that any immigration reform conform with the following principles:

a. Provide a meaningful path to citizenship for

undocumented workers currently in the United States and for future workers and close family members;

b. Protect workers, both immigrant and American-born, from exploitation;

c. Reunite families;

d. Restore the rule of law and enhance security; and

e. Promote citizenship and civic participation.

3. That a copy of this resolution be sent to the President of the United States, the President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and each member of Nebraska's congressional delegation.