

By Senator Soto

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Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing the need for immigration reform and expressing commitment to sustaining the American Dream.

WHEREAS, common-sense, principled immigration reform serves America's interests, promotes fairness and the rule of law, and contributes effectively to our economic well-being and recovery, and

WHEREAS, to preserve our history, national identity, and culture, we must, as a nation, create a modern, 21st Century legal immigration system that reflects that legacy, and

WHEREAS, immigration reform should rest on the following principles:

Require the estimated 11 million undocumented immigrants in the United States to register with the Federal Government and pay back taxes to contribute fully and legally to our economy and earn a path to citizenship;

Protect the unity and sanctity of the family, including families united by domestic partnerships, by reducing family backlogs and keeping spouses, parents, and children together;

Attract the best and the brightest investors, innovators, and skilled professionals, including those in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) studies, to help strengthen our economy, create jobs, and build a brighter future for all Americans;

Incorporate "DREAMers"—those who were brought to the United States at a young age and are Americans but for a piece of paper—into the mainstream of life in the United States through a

14-03307-14

20141722__

30 path to citizenship so that America benefits from their
31 scholastic achievements, military service, and pursuit of their
32 dreams;

33 Include a balanced, workable solution for the agriculture
34 industry which ensures that agricultural workers have a route to
35 citizenship and employers have the workers they need;

36 End the exploitation of native and immigrant workers by
37 providing sufficient, safe, and legal avenues for foreign
38 workers to fill legitimate gaps in our workforce, with full
39 labor rights, protection from discrimination, and a reasonable
40 path to permanency which lifts up wages and working conditions
41 for both native and foreign workers and their families;

42 Ensure smart and reasonable enforcement that protects our
43 borders and fosters commerce by targeting serious criminals and
44 real threats at our borders and that promotes the safe and
45 legitimate movement of people and goods at our ports of entry,
46 which is essential to our economy;

47 Establish a workable employment verification system that
48 prevents unlawful employment and rewards employers and employees
49 who play by the rules, while protecting Americans' right to work
50 and their privacy; and

51 Renew our commitment to citizenship to ensure that all
52 workers pay their fair share of taxes, fully integrate into our
53 way of life, and bear the same responsibilities as all
54 Americans, NOW, THEREFORE,

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56 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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58 That the need for immigration reform is recognized and the

14-03307-14

20141722__

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commitment to sustaining the American Dream is expressed.