

## ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE

## SECOND SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 399**

Introduced by Wightman, 36; Ashford, 20; Campbell, 25; Chambers, 11; Conrad, 46; Davis, 43; Gloor, 35; Hansen, 42; Harms, 48; Howard, 9; McGill, 26; Nordquist, 7; Schumacher, 22; Mello, 5; Cook, 13.

WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes that our federal immigration laws are long outdated, causing harm to families, businesses, and communities; and

WHEREAS, common-sense reforms that modernize our outdated immigration laws and that are sensible, fair, and practical are necessary to protect our borders and create a strong foundation for our economy and society; and

WHEREAS, immigration has always been an important part of the social and economic fabric of the United States, and it is in the best interest of all that our nation's immigration laws be kept up-to-date; and

WHEREAS, although comprehensive immigration reform is a federal and not a state matter, the State of Nebraska has legitimate interests in the passage of effective immigration laws at the federal level; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska's towns and cities have experienced significant growth in immigrant population in the last two decades which has helped the state maintain its population; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska community leaders, educators, business owners, cattlemen, farmers, and the immigrant community have recognized that while some challenges are created by integrating new immigrant Nebraskans, the positive impacts of immigration, including economic development, tax

collections, and cultural diversity, exceed the costs of resolving these challenges, demonstrated by the fact that many communities with significant immigrant populations are thriving unlike many of those communities which have not attracted immigrants; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska population trends indicate a future shortage of needed and qualified labor in agriculture and the skilled trades and a shortage of professionally-trained workers in our rural communities; and

WHEREAS, pending legislation is before the United States Congress which would accomplish comprehensive immigration reform.

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

1. That the Legislature recommends that the Nebraska congressional delegation take affirmative action to enact comprehensive immigration reform to update our immigration system.

2. That such reform enacted by Congress should recognize the need to protect the borders of the United States, maintain respect for the law, embody fairness, and protect families.

3. That such reform should recognize the important role that immigrant Americans play as entrepreneurs, workers, taxpayers, and family members.

4. That such reform should protect agriculture, small businesses, and working Nebraskans and facilitate increases in the labor market and the professions necessary to protect rural communities from further economic decline.

5. That the Legislature recommends that in order to ensure adequate labor resources to support economic growth and stability, the House of Representatives should pass H.R. 15, the "Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act," as approved by the United States Senate, or alternatively should enact similar legislation in 2014 which embodies the principles and needs outlined in this resolution.

6. That a copy of this resolution be delivered to the President of the United States, to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, to the President of the United States Senate, and to each member of the Nebraska congressional delegation.