

Senate Joint Resolution No. 21—Committee on
Legislative Operations and Elections

FILE NUMBER.....

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION—Urging Congress to enact
comprehensive immigration reform.

WHEREAS, The United States is a nation of immigrants that has grown and strengthened in the diversity of its people; and

WHEREAS, The Constitution of the United States establishes that this country offers equal treatment, opportunity and human dignity to all residents of the United States, regardless of race, creed, color, ethnicity or birthplace; and

WHEREAS, In search of this freedom and equality, millions of immigrants have come to this country in pursuit of the American dream; and

WHEREAS, While only 13 percent of the total population of the United States are immigrants, nearly one-third of all new businesses in the United States in 2011 were started by immigrants; and

WHEREAS, Since achieving statehood in 1864, the great State of Nevada has welcomed immigrants, as reflected by the 1870 Census, which accounted for over 44 percent of the population being foreign-born; and

WHEREAS, Nevada takes pride in having built a strong population of Nevadans from diverse backgrounds and cultures, recently ranking fourth in the nation of states with the highest percentages of immigrants; and

WHEREAS, Nevada is home to over one-half million foreign-born immigrants, of whom over 40 percent have become naturalized citizens, representing a ratio of nearly one in every five Nevadans; and

WHEREAS, This diversity in the State of Nevada is also comprised of talented students and hardworking persons who aspire to become citizens of the United States and contribute to the prosperity of this State which they call home; and

WHEREAS, The growth in our State's population has also been driven by unauthorized immigrants who comprise a significant percentage of our population, including students and a workforce that remains in the shadows of a broken immigration system; and

WHEREAS, Those unauthorized immigrants include families with children who attend school and their parents who must provide for them, contributing to our economy by paying property taxes and sales taxes; and



WHEREAS, Comprehensive immigration reform is the only solution to avoid separation of such families and offer them a chance to come out of the shadows and into mainstream America and to have equal rights, obligations and fair treatment in the workplace; and

WHEREAS, Such reform must include requirements that prohibit and prevent criminals from coming into our country and the mechanisms to reinforce our security at the borders, while ensuring a pathway to citizenship to legalized immigrants who have proven compliance with our laws and demonstrated fiscal responsibility; and

WHEREAS, A guest worker program must be included in any reform to deter illegal immigration while ensuring a qualified and sufficient workforce to satisfy the needs of many industries, including agriculture; and

WHEREAS, Such comprehensive immigration reform must also include a funding system to address the entire spectrum of fiscal impacts that will be experienced by state governments as a result of implementing programs for guest workers and earned legalization and of increasing the number of immigrants in our population; and

WHEREAS, Our elected federal officials must create an immigration process that strengthens our nation's economy, reinforces our border security and allows aspiring citizens to continue making contributions to our communities, our State and our nation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, JOINTLY, That the members of the 78th Session of the Nevada Legislature hereby urge Congress to enact comprehensive immigration reform as outlined in this resolution which addresses:

1. Earned legal residency accompanied by a clear path to citizenship;
2. The future immigration of families and workers;
3. Improved immigration enforcement and border security that is consistent with our nation's values; and
4. A funding system to address the entire fiscal impact on our State Government; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and transmit a copy of this resolution to the President of the United States, the Vice President of the United States as presiding officer of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and each member of the Nevada Congressional Delegation; and be it further



RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon passage.

