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AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 11, 2010
CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009—10 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Joint Resolution

No. 37

Introduced by Assembly Member De Leon
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Jones, Mendoza, and Monning)

February 19, 2010

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 37—Relative to immigration.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 37, as amended, De Leon. Immigration.

This measure would specify principles for repairing the nation's broken immigration system and would urge Congress and the President of the United States to take a comprehensive and workable approach to improving the nation's immigration system using those principles.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, The United States of America was founded by
2 immigrants who came from around the world seeking a better life;
3 and
4 WHEREAS, The current immigration system is broken. It
5 separates families, reduces the effectiveness of national security
6 programs, contributes to labor abuses, and creates long backlogs
7 for families seeking naturalization. Further, it neglects the hard
8 work and financial contributions immigrants make to our country;
9 and
10 WHEREAS, It is estimated that about 11 million undocumented
11 immigrants are in the United States; and

1 WHEREAS, California has one of the biggest populations of
2 immigrants, both legal and undocumented; and

3 WHEREAS, Immigrants and their children ~~comprise~~ *constitute*
4 nearly one-half of California's population and contribute to local
5 economies. In the San Francisco Bay area, immigrants contribute
6 22 percent of the region's economic activity. In Santa Clara
7 County, immigrants contribute 44 percent of the region's economic
8 activity. In Fresno, immigrants contribute 27 percent of the region's
9 economic activity. In Orange County, immigrants contribute 33
10 percent of the region's economic activity. In the Inland Empire,
11 immigrants contribute 28 percent of the region's economic activity.
12 In San Diego, immigrants contribute 25 percent of the region's
13 economic activity; and

14 WHEREAS, Approximately 77 percent of undocumented
15 immigrants that reside in California live with families members
16 that are legal United States residents and citizens; and

17 WHEREAS, One in eleven workers in California is an
18 undocumented immigrant, and immigrants are a vibrant,
19 productive, and vital part of the state's growing economy, diverse
20 cultural fabric, and changing demographics. Immigrant worker
21 populations in California are concentrated in a variety of sectors,
22 including leisure and hospitality, construction, food and agriculture,
23 service, transportation, and textile sectors. Many immigrants
24 throughout the state have even started their own small businesses;
25 and

26 WHEREAS, The integration of immigrants and the development
27 of a comprehensive approach to solve our broken immigration
28 system is critical to ensure that our state continues to have a strong
29 economy; and

30 WHEREAS, Fixing our broken immigration system would have
31 a positive impact on the economy because moving workers out of
32 a vulnerable underground status produces both short-term and
33 long-term economic gains. Doing so will strengthen the ability of
34 working families to become more productive, with higher levels
35 of income and job-generating consumption, and will increase their
36 net contributions to tax revenues; and

37 WHEREAS, Fixing our broken immigration system would have
38 a positive impact on the economy in the short and long term.
39 Recent data released by the University of California, Los Angeles,
40 indicates that legalizing the status of undocumented immigrants

1 working and living in the United States would create roughly \$1.5
2 trillion in additional GDP growth over 10 years and increase wages
3 for all workers; and

4 WHEREAS, A study released by the University of Southern
5 California estimates that the immediate and long-term effects of
6 enacting comprehensive immigration reform would result in a \$16
7 billion boost to California’s economy; and

8 WHEREAS, Modernizing our antiquated and dysfunctional
9 immigration system will uphold our nation’s basic values of
10 fairness, equal opportunity, and respect for the law; and

11 WHEREAS, A comprehensive approach to solve our broken
12 immigration system, one that works for all communities and
13 families in America, should include the following elements: (1) a
14 plan for providing legal status with a path to citizenship to
15 undocumented immigrants who are working and living in the
16 United States, which plan should include the AgJOBS Act of 2009
17 and DREAM Act of 2009, (2) improvement of the economic
18 situation of all workers in the United States, (3) the reform of visa
19 programs in order to keep families together, protect workers’ rights,
20 and ensure that future immigration is regulated and controlled
21 rather than illegal and chaotic, (4) the implementation of smart,
22 effective enforcement measures targeted at the worst violators of
23 immigration and labor laws, (5) prioritizing immigrant integration
24 into our communities and country, and (6) respect for the due
25 process rights of everyone in the United States; now, therefore, be
26 it

27 *Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*
28 *California, jointly*, That the Legislature urges the President and
29 the Congress of the United States to take a comprehensive and
30 workable approach to solving our nation’s broken immigration
31 system, using the principles described in this resolution; and be it
32 further

33 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
34 of this resolution to the President and the Vice President of the
35 United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and
36 to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress
37 of the United States.

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