

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 29, 2010

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 5, 2010

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~~
~~Monning~~, Ammiano, Arambula, Beall, Blumenfield, Bradford,
Brownley, Charles Calderon, Carter, Chesbro, Coto, Davis,
De La Torre, Eng, Evans, Feuer, Fong, Fuentes, Furutani, Hall,
Hayashi, Hernandez, Hill, Huffman, Lieu, Ma, Nava,
John A. Perez, V. Manuel Perez, Ruskin, Salas, Saldana, Skinner,
Solorio, Swanson, Torlakson, Torres, and Yamada)**

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

1 WHEREAS, The current immigration system is broken. It
2 separates families, reduces the effectiveness of national security
3 programs, contributes to labor abuses, and creates long backlogs
4 for families seeking naturalization. Further, it neglects the hard
5 work and financial contributions immigrants make to our country;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, It is estimated that about 11 million undocumented
8 immigrants are in the United States; and

9 WHEREAS, California has one of the biggest populations of
10 immigrants, both legal and undocumented; and

11 WHEREAS, Immigrants and their children constitute nearly
12 one-half of California's population and contribute to local
13 economies. In the San Francisco Bay area, immigrants contribute
14 22 percent of the region's economic activity. In Santa Clara
15 County, immigrants contribute 44 percent of the region's economic
16 activity. In Fresno, immigrants contribute 27 percent of the region's
17 economic activity. In Orange County, immigrants contribute 33
18 percent of the region's economic activity. In the Inland Empire,
19 immigrants contribute 28 percent of the region's economic activity.
20 In San Diego, immigrants contribute 25 percent of the region's
21 economic activity; and

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

25 WHEREAS, One in eleven workers in California is an
26 undocumented immigrant, and immigrants are a vibrant,
27 productive, and vital part of the state's growing economy, diverse
28 cultural fabric, and changing demographics. Immigrant worker
29 populations in California are concentrated in a variety of sectors,
30 including leisure and hospitality, construction, food and agriculture,
31 service, transportation, and textile sectors. Many immigrants
32 throughout the state have even started their own small businesses;
33 and

34 WHEREAS, The integration of immigrants and the development
35 of a comprehensive approach to solve our broken immigration
36 system is critical to ensure that our state continues to have a strong
37 economy; and

38 WHEREAS, Fixing our broken immigration system would have
39 a positive impact on the economy because moving workers out of
40 a vulnerable underground status produces both short-term and

1 long-term economic gains. Doing so will strengthen the ability of
2 working families to become more productive, with higher levels
3 of income and job-generating consumption, and will increase their
4 net contributions to tax revenues; and

5 WHEREAS, Fixing our broken immigration system would have
6 a positive impact on the economy in the short and long term.
7 Recent data released by the University of California, Los Angeles,
8 indicates that legalizing the status of undocumented immigrants
9 working and living in the United States would create roughly \$1.5
10 trillion in additional GDP growth over 10 years and increase wages
11 for all workers; and

12 WHEREAS, A study released by the University of Southern
13 California estimates that the immediate and long-term effects of
14 enacting comprehensive immigration reform would result in a \$16
15 billion boost to California's economy; and

16 WHEREAS, Modernizing our antiquated and dysfunctional
17 immigration system will uphold our nation's basic values of
18 fairness, equal opportunity, and respect for the law; and

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

35 *Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*
36 *California, jointly*, That the Legislature urges the President and
37 the Congress of the United States to take a comprehensive and
38 workable approach to solving our nation's broken immigration
39 system, using the principles described in this resolution; and be it
40 further

1 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
 2 of this resolution to the President and the Vice President of the
 3 United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and
 4 to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress
 5 of the United States.

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 8 **CORRECTIONS:**
 9 **Heading—Coauthors—Line 2.**
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