

WHEREAS, The federal government possesses exclusive authority to establish and enforce rules, regulations, and procedures relating to naturalization and immigration pursuant to Section 8 of Article I of the United State Constitution, the Sixth Amendment to the United States Constitution, and over 100 years of Supreme Court precedent; and

WHEREAS, The federal government has persistently ignored the pressing need for comprehensive immigration reform, a failure the sitting President admitted recently by saying, “Our failure to act responsibly at the federal level will only open the door to irresponsibility by others”; and

WHEREAS, The federal government has established various mechanisms to reimburse states for certain costs of undocumented immigration, but for years has reimbursed only a fraction of these costs to California and other states; and

WHEREAS, Individual states cannot long sustain the fiscal instability resulting from current federal immigration policy, nor afford to wait indefinitely for the fulfillment of the promise of comprehensive immigration reform at the federal level; and

WHEREAS, The federal government’s failure to implement sound immigration policy or enforce existing federal law encourages frustrated states to craft their own ad hoc policy solutions for undocumented immigration, an approach that potentially raises constitutional concerns, incites socially and racially divisive rhetoric, and creates a divergent patchwork of immigration law provisions; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the history of the United States, the continued prosperity and vitality of the country has been made possible through the courage, dreams, and toil of immigrants from around the globe, and the federal government’s failure to



establish and guide an accessible, reasonable, and fair immigration process undermines the values upon which America was founded; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly thereof concurring,* That the Legislature of the State of California exhorts the Congress and President of the United States, on behalf of California residents, to exhibit responsible leadership by enacting comprehensive immigration reform; develop a fair, purposeful immigration reform solution that controls the country's borders and the costs to state and local governments; preserve the paramount importance of lawful immigration to our culture, economy, and future; and balance the need for secure borders and sound residency requirements with America's fundamental values and our responsibility to welcome with open arms "huddled masses yearning to breath free"; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

