

A-Engrossed House Joint Memorial 24

Ordered by the House May 31
Including House Amendments dated May 31

Sponsored by Representative C EDWARDS; Representatives BEYER, BOONE, CLEM, COWAN, D EDWARDS, GALIZIO, HUNT, KOMP, RILEY, ROBLAN, SCHAUFLEER, WITT

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure.

Urges Congress to institute comprehensive immigration reform, secure borders of United States of America and reimburse Oregon taxpayers for cost of incarcerating criminal aliens.

JOINT MEMORIAL

1
2 To the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress as-
3 sembled:

4 We, your memorialists, the Seventy-fourth Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon, in leg-
5 islative session assembled, respectfully represent as follows:

6 Whereas the United States of America was founded by immigrants who traveled from around the
7 world to seek a better life; and

8 Whereas modernizing our antiquated and dysfunctional immigration system will uphold our na-
9 tion's basic values of fairness, equal opportunity and respect for the law; and

10 Whereas our current immigration system fails to provide the clear and fair paths to legal resi-
11 dency or citizenship that would benefit the growth of our nation while also securing our nation's
12 borders; and

13 Whereas the current, ineffective immigration system contributes to labor abuses, deaths on the
14 border and vigilante violence and is in dire need of reform to meet the challenges of the 21st cen-
15 tury; and

16 Whereas illegal immigration grew 23 percent over the past four years, and this increase came
17 despite the creation of the Department of Homeland Security and increased funding for border con-
18 trol; and

19 Whereas undocumented immigrants in the United States now total 12 million and account for
20 one in every 20 workers, including one-quarter of agricultural workers; and

21 Whereas the federal government's unwillingness to stem the tide of illegal immigration has
22 created billions of dollars in costs to state and local governments; and

23 Whereas if the federal government continues to abdicate its responsibility to develop a com-
24 prehensive immigration policy, it should reimburse the states for costs associated with those fail-
25 ures, and otherwise, the federal government is forcing the states to pay for the federal government's
26 failures; and

27 Whereas the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) is a tool designed by the federal
28 government to reimburse states for their costs of incarcerating unauthorized immigrants who have

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted.
New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 violated state law; and

2 Whereas in recent years, Oregon has received dramatically less from SCAAP than the state's
3 actual expenses for securing criminal aliens; and

4 Whereas the 2006 SCAAP award from the federal government reimbursed Oregon \$4,474,724,
5 which represents only 14 percent of actual costs incurred, leaving an unpaid balance of \$26,933,274;
6 and

7 Whereas the federal government should adopt policies to work closely with the states to provide
8 immediate resources required to offset the enormous costs imposed upon the states as a result of the
9 failure to control illegal entries along our international borders; and

10 Whereas full funding of the true costs must also be made readily available to reimburse states
11 for verified expenditures incurred in the apprehension, detention and emergency care of undocu-
12 mented immigrants and for local costs such as medical transport; now, therefore,

13 **Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:**

14 (1) We, the members of the Seventy-fourth Legislative Assembly, on behalf of the citizens of
15 Oregon, respectfully urge the Congress of the United States to secure our nation's borders and to
16 address comprehensive immigration reform in order to provide states with an adequate workforce,
17 address the escalating costs to states of illegal immigration and help states recoup moneys already
18 spent on such escalating costs.

19 (2) We respectfully request that the Congress of the United States authorize and appropriate
20 funding to fully reimburse Oregon taxpayers for the cost of incarcerating criminal aliens.

21 (3) A copy of this memorial shall be sent to the Senate Majority Leader, to the Speaker and the
22 Clerk of the House of Representatives and to each member of the Oregon Congressional Delegation.
23
