

House Joint Resolution 27

Sponsored by Representatives THATCHER, FLORES; Representatives BERGER, CAMERON, DALLUM, ESQUIVEL, GARRARD, GILLIAM, GILMAN, GIROD, HANNA, KRIEGER, KRUMMEL, MAURER, RICHARDSON, SCOTT, WHISNANT

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 **as introduced**.

Calls upon President, Congress and other government leaders and law enforcement officials to take certain actions relating to illegal immigration. Salutes hard work, determination and dedication of lawful immigrants to Oregon.

JOINT RESOLUTION

Whereas the United States of America is a nation of immigrants who have come to these shores seeking freedom and opportunity and who have worked hard to make this country great; and

Whereas the United States stands as a beacon of hope to the people of the world; and

Whereas immigration law is principally the responsibility of our federal government, but immigration activity has a significant effect on the governments of the various states; and

Whereas legal immigrants endure a long, difficult process for the privilege of earning legal residency and citizenship; and

Whereas past programs have allowed agricultural and other businesses to meet legitimate needs in a legal manner; and

Whereas in recent years the federal government has failed to adequately enforce immigration laws and protect our borders, resulting in millions of illegal immigrants living within our borders without supervision; and

Whereas credible estimates put Oregon's illegal immigrant population as high as 175,000 individuals; and

Whereas the failure of the federal government to control the stream of illegal immigrants into our country and state has been accompanied by a flood of dangerous illegal drugs, most notably methamphetamine, which has destroyed many lives and scoured our communities; and

Whereas failure to enforce immigration laws results in a lack of respect for all laws generally and has left us exposed to the entry of terrorists and criminals from other lands into our country; and

Whereas the influx of illegal immigrants has made it difficult, and in some cases impossible, for civil authorities to provide adequate public services, most notably in the critical areas of health care, education and public safety; and

Whereas illegal immigration harms the immigrants themselves, as they are unable to fully participate in American society and are often exploited in housing and working environments for fear of contacting civil authorities for assistance; and

Whereas illegal immigration harms the country of the immigrants' origin by draining their native lands of the labor and talent necessary to foster economic opportunity in their home countries, thereby weakening such nations and the regions surrounding them; now, therefore,

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.

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

(1) The members of the Seventy-fourth Legislative Assembly:

(a) Call upon the President and the Congress of the United States to take whatever actions are necessary to fully protect America's borders and fully enforce our immigration laws;

(b) Call upon the President and the Congress to enact laws that require states to fully cooperate with the federal government in the enforcement of immigration laws;

(c) Call upon all government leaders and law enforcement officials to vigorously pursue companies and individuals who knowingly hire illegal immigrants to exploit their status as illegal immigrants; and

(d) Call upon the President and the Congress to enact and enforce a fair program that respects legal immigrants by not rewarding those who have come illegally, yet allows those that would respect our laws to come to the United States temporarily for the purpose of providing valuable labor, under careful limitations designed to ensure that such employment does not unfairly undermine work opportunities for American citizens.

(2) The members of the Seventy-fourth Legislative Assembly salute the hard work, determination and dedication of lawful immigrants to Oregon, who have made great and lasting contributions to the culture, health, strength and vitality of Oregon.