

# 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

1  
2       Whereas the United States of America is a nation of immigrants who have come to these shores  
3 seeking freedom and opportunity and who have worked hard to make this country great; and

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

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

7       Whereas legal immigrants endure a long, difficult process for the privilege of earning legal res-  
8 idency and citizenship; and

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

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

14       Whereas credible estimates put Oregon's illegal immigrant population as high as 175,000 indi-  
15 viduals; and

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

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

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

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

28       Whereas illegal immigration harms the country of the immigrants' origin by draining their na-  
29 tive lands of the labor and talent necessary to foster economic opportunity in their home countries,  
30 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.

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

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

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

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

7 (c) Call upon all government leaders and law enforcement officials to vigorously pursue compa-  
8 nies and individuals who knowingly hire illegal immigrants to exploit their status as illegal immi-  
9 grants; and

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

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

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