

House Joint Resolution 57

Sponsored by Representatives THATCHER, FLORES; Representatives BRUUN, CAMERON, DALLUM, ESQUIVEL, GILLIAM, GILMAN, HANNA, KRIEGER, KRUMMEL, MAURER, MORGAN, NELSON, OLSON, 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 and Congress to take certain actions relating to illegal immigration. States beliefs of Legislative Assembly regarding immigration and citizenship. 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 the President and the Congress to enact and enforce a fair program that respects
8 legal immigrants by not rewarding those who have come illegally, yet allows those who would re-
9 spect our laws to come to the United States temporarily for the purpose of providing valuable labor,
10 under careful limitations designed to ensure that such employment does not unfairly undermine work
11 opportunities for American citizens.

12 (d) Believe that the State of Oregon needs to ensure the integrity of our electoral process by
13 requiring prospective voter registrants to provide proof of citizenship.

14 (e) Believe that state and local law enforcement officials should be given the legal authority to
15 help enforce federal immigration laws.

16 (f) Believe that the State of Oregon should fully implement the requirements of the federal Real
17 ID Act.

18 (g) Believe that the Employment Department should fairly administer the federal H2A Visa
19 program.

20 (h) Believe that the State of Oregon should establish English as the official language of Oregon.

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

24