

Senate Joint Resolution 12

Sponsored by Senator GORDLY

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**.

Declares that state agencies and local governments should encourage policies that confer legal status on noncitizen parents of children who are United States citizens. Designates family unification as legislative policy priority.

JOINT RESOLUTION

1
2 Whereas families in Oregon are separated, or threatened by the prospect of separation, by the
3 broken immigration laws and regulations that span the State of Oregon and the nation; and

4 Whereas children who are citizens of the United States are being separated from their fathers
5 and mothers because of broken immigration laws; and

6 Whereas a child's separation from family members violates the right to family unity and causes
7 children who are United States citizens great emotional and financial harm; and

8 Whereas mothers or fathers of citizen children are, in many cases, married to United States
9 citizens, and the hardship experienced by these families due to the separation, or imminent separation,
10 of their families is ultimately hardship experienced by United States citizens; and

11 Whereas immigration cases illuminate a wide range of legal situations and human experiences
12 that are important and instructive to the immigration debate in Congress; and

13 Whereas it is the right of every United States citizen to grow up in the citizen's country of birth
14 with family, including parents, siblings, aunts, uncles and grandparents, and this right is of utmost
15 importance and equal to any other right granted to United States citizens; now, therefore,

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

17 That we, the members of the Seventy-fourth Legislative Assembly, declare that, except as otherwise
18 may be required by state or federal law, state agencies and local governments should encourage
19 policies that confer legal status on noncitizen parents of children who are United States
20 citizens to allow for permanent unification of the family within the borders of the United States; and
21 be it further

22 Resolved, That we, the members of the Seventy-fourth Legislative Assembly, hold family unification
23 as the highest immigration policy priority.

24

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.