

IN THE SENATE

SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 101

BY STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

1
2 TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, AND TO THE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION REPRESENTING THE STATE OF IDAHO IN THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES.

6 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and the House of Representatives of the State of Idaho assembled in the First Regular Session of the Sixty-seventh Idaho Legislature, do hereby respectfully represent that:

9 WHEREAS, the federal government of the United States is vested with the responsibility and authority to establish terms of naturalization, to control immigration, and to otherwise establish, regulate, and enforce the terms and conditions upon which aliens may enter the United States from foreign places, remain in the United States, what activities aliens may engage in while present in the United States, terms of permanent residency, and the grant of citizenship, in addition to control of the United States border; and

16 WHEREAS, the Congress and President of the United States have failed to fulfill their Constitutional responsibility as it pertains to immigration law and policy, have failed to provide a secure border, have failed to consistently and uniformly enforce existing immigration law, and have failed to provide a robust and efficient system for entry of guestworkers to the United States capable of meeting the labor demands of domestic business; and

22 WHEREAS, as a result of these failures of the federal government, tremendous challenges are placed upon state and local governments to provide for the general welfare of all persons within their jurisdiction, whether that relates to education, enforcement of state and local law, health care, highway safety, and more; and

27 WHEREAS, as a further result of these failures of the federal government, the security of the United States and of the several states, including Idaho, is threatened and harmed by the unavailability of lawful labor needed to harvest, process, and transport our domestic food supply, to extract mineral, gas, oil, and timber resources, to build homes, businesses and highways, and to provide other basic life necessities, the lack of which leads to increased dependence upon foreign production and threatens our national security; and

35 WHEREAS, as a further result of these failures of the federal government, the security of the United States and of the several states, including Idaho, is threatened and harmed by unlawful entry to the United States of those that seek to cause us harm, human traffickers, and drug traffickers; and

40 WHEREAS, it is estimated that, as of 2018, there were 11.4 million people present in the United States without lawful status, and current estimates are that 2.4 million people are employed in agriculture. The vast majority of this population have jobs, are hard workers, pay taxes, and are

1 critical to the economic production of domestic business, and further it
2 would be impractical to incarcerate or deport a class of people uniformly and
3 without regard to circumstances; and

4 WHEREAS, it is incumbent upon the Congress and President of the United
5 States to strengthen our national security and the security of the several
6 states, including Idaho, by adopting targeted, common sense, business-fo-
7 cused, market-driven immigration reform, which at its core must include the
8 following:

9 (1) An effective system of external and internal security at and within
10 the borders of the United States that excludes from entry people that do not
11 have lawful permission to enter the United States, which incorporates mod-
12 ern technology to prevent, deter, detect, and detain those that seek to en-
13 ter the United States by unlawful means, and which implements processes such
14 as "e-verify" to prevent fraudulent use of social security numbers to obtain
15 employment or other government benefits; and

16 (2) An effective guestworker program that meets the labor needs and de-
17 mands of year-round agriculture, construction, hospitality, food process-
18 ing, manufacturing, technology and other market sectors, and in particular
19 allows cyclical worker visas of adequate length to meet the labor demands of
20 Idaho agriculture and business; and

21 (3) An effective process by which persons currently present in the
22 United States without lawful status and who are gainfully employed and their
23 immediate family can obtain work authorization or residency status, with-
24 out a pathway to United States citizenship, provided said persons have no
25 criminal history beyond their immigration-related violations, and provided
26 further that an appropriate fine is assessed and paid in satisfaction of
27 their immigration-related violations; and

28 WHEREAS, targeted immigration reform is of vital necessity to the cit-
29 izens and businesses of the State of Idaho, and as such it is incumbent upon
30 the congressional delegation representing the State of Idaho in the Congress
31 of the United States to be outspoken and fervent leaders and continue to be
32 advocates for immigration reform consistent with the principles set forth in
33 this Joint Memorial.

34 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the First Regular Ses-
35 sion of the Sixty-seventh Idaho Legislature, the Senate and the House of
36 Representatives concurring therein, that the Idaho Legislature requests and
37 calls upon the President of the United States and the Senate and the House
38 of Representatives of the United States to take action with all deliberate
39 speed to adopt and implement targeted immigration reform in a manner consis-
40 tent with the principles set forth in this Joint Memorial.

41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the congressional delegation representing
42 the State of Idaho in the Congress of the United States is requested and
43 called upon to take action with all deliberate speed to advocate for and in-
44 troduce federal legislation implementing targeted immigration reform in a
45 manner consistent with the principles set forth in this Joint Memorial.

46 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate be, and she is
47 hereby authorized and directed to forward a copy of this Joint Memorial
48 to the President of the United States, the President of the Senate and the
49 Speaker of the House of Representatives of Congress, and to the congres-

1 sional delegation representing the State of Idaho in the Congress of the
2 United States.