Session of 2025

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 1614

By Senators Holscher, Faust Goudeau, Haley, Pettey, Schmidt and Ware

3-3

A RESOLUTION urging the United States Congress to increase the penalties for violations of federal immigration laws and the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement to prosecute employers who hire undocumented immigrants.

WHEREAS, Undocumented immigrants make up between 4.4% and 5.4% of the United States labor force; and

WHEREAS, Companies, hiring managers and other employers who hire undocumented immigrants are choosing to take jobs away from Americans and are setting up an environment that keeps wages low, preventing American workers from earning livable wages; and

WHEREAS, While the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has had the authority to use federal criminal statutes to prosecute individuals and companies that employ undocumented immigrants since 1986, the agency has rarely used that authority; and

WHEREAS, A 2019 analysis by the Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse shows that for the 12-month period between April 2018 and March 2019, only 11 people and no company was criminally prosecuted in seven cases that were brought by ICE; and

WHEREAS, During that same 12-month period, ICE prosecuted 86,000 people for illegal entry into the United States, 35,000 people for illegal re-entry into the United States and 5,000 people for helping people to enter the United States illegally; and

WHEREAS, Exploitative companies and employers have been allowed to establish a pipeline for the hiring of undocumented immigrants without penalty: Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas: That the Senate urges the federal government to not only utilize the statutory penalties currently available to curb unlawful immigration but that Congress double the fines for violations of federal immigration law; and

Be it further resolved: That the Senate urges ICE to pursue criminal prosecution of companies and employers who violate federal immigration laws by hiring undocumented immigrants; and

Be it further resolved: That the Secretary of the Senate shall send an enrolled copy of this resolution to members of the Kansas congressional delegation and the Acting Director of ICE.