

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 1607

By Committee on Federal and State Affairs

3-28

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION outlining the principles of the State of
2 Kansas regarding immigration reform policies.

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4 WHEREAS, Failure to update our federal immigration system
5 separates Kansas families, destabilizes Kansas communities, and creates
6 uncertainty, inefficiency and an uneven playing field for Kansas businesses
7 and economy; and

8 WHEREAS, The forced separation of working parents from their
9 children weakens families and damages society; and

10 WHEREAS, Failure to address the system where it can be fixed – at
11 the federal level – has left states searching for solutions in ways that have
12 been costly and divisive: Now, therefore,

13 *Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas,*
14 *the Senate concurring therein:* That the Legislature recommends the
15 following basic principles as a guide for state and federal policy on
16 immigration:

17 1. Immigration is a federal policy issue between the United States
18 government and other countries – not Kansas and other countries. The
19 Legislature urges the Kansas congressional delegation to take action to
20 create a workable immigration system that upholds our values and moves
21 us forward; and

22 2. the Legislature respects the rule of law and supports law
23 enforcement's professional judgment and discretion. Local law
24 enforcement resources should focus on criminal activities, not civil
25 violations of federal code; and

26 3. strong families are the foundation of successful communities. The
27 Legislature opposes policies that unnecessarily separate families. The
28 Legislature champions policies that support families and improve the
29 health, education and well-being of all Kansas children; and

30 4. the Legislature acknowledges the important economic role
31 immigrant Kansans play as workers, entrepreneurs and taxpayers. The
32 immigration policies of Kansas must affirm its reputation as a welcoming
33 and business friendly state; and

34 5. immigration is an important part of our past and our future. As in the
35 past, immigrants are integrated into communities across Kansas. We must
36 adopt a humane approach to this reality, reflecting our values, history and

1 spirit of inclusion. The way we treat immigrants will say more about us as
2 a society and less about our immigrant neighbors. Kansas should always
3 be a place that welcomes people of goodwill. Our communities and our
4 future will be best served by doing so.

5 *Be it further resolved:* That the Legislature urgently calls upon the
6 Kansas congressional delegation and the United States Congress to enact
7 thorough, common sense, workable and humane reforms that reflect the
8 realities of our country's workforce needs and represents America at its
9 best.

10 *Be it further resolved:* That the Chief Clerk of the House of
11 Representatives shall send an enrolled copy of this resolution to the
12 President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States House of
13 Representatives, the President of the United States Senate and each
14 member of the Kansas congressional delegation.
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