



HR0215

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Illinois is home to 1.8 million immigrants who
3 have traveled to the State of Illinois from around the world to
4 seek a better life and to 1.7 million U.S.-born citizens who
5 have at least one immigrant parent; and

6 WHEREAS, Our nation's immigration system should uphold our
7 basic values of family, economic opportunity, fairness, and
8 second chances; and

9 WHEREAS, The U.S. immigration system, which has resulted
10 in long backlogs and deaths on the border, is unjust and
11 inequitable and is in dire need of reforms, including a
12 pathway to citizenship for all undocumented immigrants; and

13 WHEREAS, The current coronavirus pandemic has highlighted
14 the importance of immigrants, including the undocumented, as
15 "essential workers" who have sustained, for both our State and
16 our nation, our health care system, food chain, and other
17 vital services, often at great risk to their own and their
18 families' health and well-being; and

19 WHEREAS, The administration of Donald Trump further
20 aggravated the flaws within our immigration system by
21 unleashing immigration enforcement, separating children and

1 parents at the southern border, gutting refugee and asylum
2 processing, further complicating legal immigration through
3 such policies as the new public charge rule, attempting to end
4 protective programs such as DACA and Temporary Protected
5 Status (TPS), imposing a new naturalization test, further
6 complicating the process to apply for citizenship, and
7 instituting many other policies that have created fear,
8 confusion, and pain among families throughout our State and
9 nation; and

10 WHEREAS, The election and inauguration of Joe Biden as
11 president provides an opportunity to not only undo his
12 predecessor's harmful policies but to also address the more
13 basic inequities and racial disparities within our immigration
14 system and to enact a pathway to citizenship that would
15 protect DACA and TPS recipients, essential workers, and all
16 undocumented immigrants, currently numbering approximately 11
17 million nationwide and 450,000 in Illinois; and

18 WHEREAS, Current immigration proposals in Congress would
19 exclude those convicted of prior felonies and misdemeanors,
20 provisions that exclude approximately one-third of potential
21 applicants, disproportionately affecting Black immigrants; and

22 WHEREAS, Excluding those who have already served their
23 time and are currently contributing to their communities is a

1 form of double punishment, which is antithetical to our values
2 as a state and as a nation; and

3 WHEREAS, The State of Illinois has historically welcomed
4 immigrants, and elected officials of both major political
5 parties have supported legislation, policies, and programs
6 that have enabled immigrants to work, learn, raise families,
7 build businesses and communities, and express their voice in
8 the civic life of our State; and

9 WHEREAS, The State of Illinois has more recently taken
10 national leadership on welcoming policies for immigrants,
11 including funding for citizenship and community outreach
12 programs, educational aid for immigrant students, driver's
13 licenses for immigrant motorists, and protections against
14 federal immigration enforcement policies that undermine
15 relations between immigrant communities and local police; and

16 WHEREAS, These policies adopted by the State of Illinois
17 intend to separate state law enforcement from federal
18 immigration enforcement and are designed to protect all
19 immigrants in our State regardless of prior interaction with
20 the legal system; and

21 WHEREAS, At this moment when our nation faces a reckoning
22 on racial justice, prompted by the deaths of George Floyd,

1 Breonna Taylor, and so many other Black Americans but
2 reflecting historic discrimination and disinvestment against
3 Black, Indigenous, and other communities of color, we need to
4 ensure that our immigration laws and policies and other laws
5 that affect immigrant communities must be grounded in racial
6 equity; therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
8 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
9 we call upon the Biden Administration to take immediate steps,
10 including executive orders, administrative policy changes, and
11 regulatory changes, to undo the harmful immigration policies
12 of the Trump Administration, including but not limited to
13 halting and dismantling the immigration enforcement machinery
14 that has harmed and separated thousands of Illinois families;
15 and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That we call upon the Biden Administration,
17 Senator Richard Durbin, Senator Tammy Duckworth, and the
18 Illinois U.S. House Delegation to enact legislation to create
19 a pathway to citizenship for all undocumented immigrants, fix
20 other provisions of our immigrations laws that exclude and
21 otherwise harm immigrants, address the root causes of
22 international migration, and ground our immigration laws in
23 justice and equity; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
2 delivered to President Biden, the Majority Leader and Minority
3 Leader of the United States Senate, the Speaker and Minority
4 Leader of the United States House of Representatives, Senators
5 Durbin and Duckworth, and all members of the Illinois U.S.
6 House Delegation.