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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The United States House of Representatives passed H.R.4437, the Sensenbrenner immigration bill, that would criminalize the undocumented, their employers, and asylum-seekers alike, tear apart families, and needlessly devastate our economy; and

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WHEREAS, The United States of America was founded by immigrants who traveled from around the world to seek a better life; and

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WHEREAS, The United States has an undocumented population of 11 million immigrants, including half a million in Illinois; and

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WHEREAS, Illinois immigrants fill key roles in our economy such as paying taxes, including contributions to Social Security that they cannot receive back, raising families, and contributing to our schools, churches, neighborhoods, and communities; and

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WHEREAS, Our current immigration system contributes to long backlogs, labor abuses, countless deaths on the border, and vigilante violence and is in dire need of reform to meet the challenges of the 21st century; and

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WHEREAS, Any comprehensive reform must involve a path to citizenship for these hardworking immigrants, as well as reunification of families and a safe and orderly process for enabling willing immigrant workers to fill essential jobs in our economy and ensure full labor rights; and

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WHEREAS, The immigration initiative severely punishes illegal employment practices while creating a path to earned permanent legal status for individuals who have been working in

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1 the United States, paying taxes, obeying the law, and learning  
2 English, and protecting workers by ensuring the right to change  
3 jobs, join a union, and report abusive employment situations;  
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Modernizing our antiquated and dysfunctional  
6 immigration system will uphold our nation's basic values of  
7 fairness, equal opportunity, and respect for the law;  
8 therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL  
10 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we urge the Illinois  
11 Congressional Delegation and all of Congress to support "The  
12 Secure America and Orderly Immigration Act of 2005" (S.1033 and  
13 H.R.2330), which allows every hardworking, law-abiding  
14 individual to achieve the American Dream; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be delivered to  
16 the President of the United States, the Speaker of the House of  
17 Representatives, the President of the Senate, the Majority and  
18 Minority Leaders of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of  
19 Representatives, the Majority and Minority Leaders of the House  
20 of Representatives, and each member of the Illinois  
21 Congressional Delegation.