

PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

Proclamation No. 13-0085

Urging Action from the 113th Congress on Comprehensive Immigration Reform

Introduced by Council members Paul D. López and Judy H. Montero

WHEREAS, our nation's current immigration system is broken; leaving families separated and children without their parents; weakening our economy, and not reflecting our city's or national values, we believe our Congress must create new immigration laws that strengthen our nation's economy and that recognize the importance of immigrants' many contributions to the social and economic fabric of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, on May 10, 2010, the Denver City Council passed CP10-0379, a proclamation urging President Barack H. Obama, the United States 110th Congress, and Colorado's congressional delegation to pass legislation for federal comprehensive immigration reform; for reasons below we once again urge the federal government to pass comprehensive immigration reform; and

WHEREAS, until our broken national immigration system is fixed, local law enforcement will continue to be pressured to bear unfair burden of Federal responsibility and that efficient border security must be a central feature of any comprehensive immigration reform, and

WHEREAS, until our broken national immigration system is fixed, employers that knowingly employ undocumented workers are exploiting the system and exploits the workers to gain an advantage over employers that play by the rules thus violating labor laws and undermining our economy; and

WHEREAS, comprehensive immigration reform must address the failings of our national immigration systems so that the immigrant individuals can earn a pathway to citizenship, the opportunity to become legally employed, and to collect fair wages and pay taxes; and

WHEREAS, comprehensive immigration reform would create a permanent pathway to earned citizenship for the thousands of DREAMers who were brought as children, through no fault of their own by their parents, and the opportunity to attend college, serve in the Armed Forces, and to be fully active members of our society, and

WHEREAS, keeping immigrant families together is a critical factor in the United States because it maintains a strong economy and encourages healthy and sustainable communities; and

WHEREAS, in our state the Colorado Compact has been created to support efforts to convene and promote reasonable conversation on immigration in Colorado, with bipartisan support, to lead to real and lasting federal reform; and

WHEREAS, throughout our history, immigrants through their hard work and pursuit of better lives for themselves, their families, and their communities, have been integral to the forward progress of the City & County Denver, the State of Colorado, and of the United States of America, and continue to move America forward, and

WHEREAS, the United States represents cultural diversity as a result of our ancestral beginnings in our country and our cultures over time have created the tapestry of American life as we experience it today.

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER:

Section 1. That the Denver City Council calls upon President Barack Obama, the United States 113th Congress, and our Colorado congressional delegation, to take swift legislative action in a bi partisan manner to pass comprehensive federal immigration reform that includes providing smarter enforcement of immigration laws and border security, and punish employers who are non-compliant and provide a reliable verification method for complaint employers; immigration laws that promote family unification rather than leaving children without their parents; an earned path to citizenship and social integration for immigrants and their families; and equitable access to higher education for immigrant students already being educated in American public schools.

Section 2. That the Clerk of the City and County of Denver shall attest and affix the seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation and that copies be transmitted to the White House and to the Colorado Congressional offices of United States Senator Michael Bennet, United States Senator Mark Udall, and United States Congressional Delegation Rep. Diana DeGette, Rep. Jared Polis, Rep. Scott Tipton, Rep. Cory Gardner, Rep. Doug Lamborn, Rep. Mike Coffman, and Rep. Ed Perlmutter.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL , 2013

_____ PRESIDENT