

PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

Proclamation PR10-0379, Series of 2010

Urging Swift Federal Action on Comprehensive National Immigration Reform

Introduced by Councilmembers Chris Nevitt and Paul D. López

WHEREAS, our national immigration system is broken; and

WHEREAS, until our broken national immigration system is fixed, employers who pay fair wages, offer good benefits, and play by the rules will continue to be undercut by employers who gain unfair market advantage by exploiting immigration status to pay lower wages, avoid taxes, and violate labor laws; and

WHEREAS, until our broken national immigration system is fixed, local law enforcement will continue to be pressured to bear unfair burdens of Federal responsibility, local service providers will continue to feel pressure to compromise their charitable missions, and local communities will continue to feel the corrosive tensions of immigration uncertainty that pit worker against worker and neighbor against neighbor; and

WHEREAS, until our broken national immigration system is fixed, we will continue to be plagued by unlawful entry into the United States and the circumvention of our nation's immigration laws; and we believe that effective and reliable border security must be a central feature of any comprehensive national immigration reform package; and

WHEREAS, our broken national immigration system fails even the most basic tests of economy or humanity, by ignoring the economic realities that propel workers to the United States and the roles they fill in the American economy, and by ignoring the bonds of family that pull immigrant workers together and, too often, tumultuously apart; and

WHEREAS, comprehensive national immigration reform will serve to boost wages for both native-born and legal immigrant workers, increase annual tax revenue for all levels of government, and provide a needed boost to private sector economic activity; and

WHEREAS, immigrants, through hard work and pursuit of better lives for themselves, their families, and their communities, have been integral to the development of Denver, of Colorado, and of the United States, and continue to make valuable contributions to our city, state, and nation in every area of endeavor and sector of the economy; and

WHEREAS, this nation was founded on legal and ethical principles that demand dignity, respect, and equality of treatment for all people, regardless of race, class, color, creed, or country of origin; and

WHEREAS, the culture of these United States, after over two-and-a-quarter centuries, now represents a vast diversity of cultures that were each transported to our country at different times and for different reasons but that have each added their own unique color and quality to the tapestry of American life.

**NOW THEREFORE,
BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER:**

Section 1. That the Council of the City and County of Denver calls upon President Barack Obama, the United States Congress, and our Colorado congressional delegation, to take swift and responsible legislative action to produce fair, humane, effective, and comprehensive federal immigration reform – reform that enhances American stability, security, and prosperity by: providing for robust border control; enforceable immigration laws; family unification; a rate and system of controlled immigration that matches the needs of our economy; a path to earned legalization, citizenship, and social integration for our existing immigrant workforce and their families; equitable access to higher education for immigrant students already being educated in American public schools; enhanced enforcement of labor laws; and bilateral partnerships with other countries to promote economic development that will reduce the flow of immigrants in the first place.

Section 2. That the Clerk of the City & County of Denver is hereby directed to deliver a certified copy of this proclamation to the Colorado Congressional offices of United States Senator Michael Bennet, United States Senator Mark Udall, and United States Congresswoman Diana DeGette.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL _____ 2010

_____ PRESIDENT