

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 384

Supporting the goals of the Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 1, 2003

Ms. SOLIS (for herself, Mr. HONDA, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. OWENS, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Ms. LEE, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. REYES, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. NORTON, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. FILNER, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. BACA, Mr. FROST, Mr. BECERRA, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. McNULTY, Mr. HINCHEY, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. WYNN, and Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

RESOLUTION

Supporting the goals of the Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride.

Whereas the United States has been called “a Nation of immigrants”;

Whereas throughout the history of the United States, immigrants have helped build cities, towns, farms, businesses, economies, and civic and cultural institutions;

Whereas immigrant workers work hard, pay taxes, and sacrifice for their families;

Whereas immigrants add strength and stability to our economy;

Whereas from September 20, 2003, through October 4, 2003, hundreds of immigrant workers will board buses and stop in dozens of communities across the country as part of the Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride;

Whereas participants in the Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride will raise awareness about the plight of immigrant workers and advocate for changing our immigration policy to create a road to citizenship for all immigrant workers, reunite workers with their families, ensure immigrants' civil rights and liberties, and protect the rights of immigrants in the workplace;

Whereas the Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride will encourage greater civic participation by new and future United States citizens;

Whereas the Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride is modeled after the 1961 Freedom Rides of the United States civil rights movement in which student activists from across the country rode buses in to the Deep South to challenge segregation;

Whereas the Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride is an opportunity to learn from and honor the civil rights movement history in the United States;

Whereas State legislators and political leaders across the country have endorsed the ride;

Whereas immigrants work as construction workers, doctors, nurses, janitors, meat packers, chefs, busboys, engineers, farm workers, and members of the United States Armed Forces;

Whereas our current immigration system keeps millions of hardworking immigrants from becoming full members of society in the United States and enjoying equal rights;

Whereas, according to the United States Department of Commerce, immigrant workers comprised 12.4 percent of the Nation's labor force in 2000;

Whereas, according to the National Academy of Sciences, immigrants make indispensable contributions to the economy and contributed at least \$133,000,000,000 in direct taxes to Federal, State, and local governments in 1997;

Whereas immigrants add about \$10,000,000,000 each year to the economy of the United States;

Whereas undocumented immigrants contribute at least \$300,000,000,000 to the gross national product of the United States annually;

Whereas, according to the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, the United States will have a shortage of 10,000,000 workers by the year 2006;

Whereas the Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride is sponsored by a large coalition of labor, community, religious, student, and immigrant groups; and

Whereas the United States needs a policy that recognizes the realities of contemporary American life and the dynamics of the global economy by enabling immigrants to adjust their status: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—
- 2 (1) supports the goals of the Immigrant Work-
- 3 ers Freedom Ride—

1 (A) to raise awareness about the need for
2 immigration reform;

3 (B) to encourage greater civic participation
4 by new and future United States citizens;

5 (C) to advocate for changes in our immi-
6 gration policy—

7 (i) to reward work by granting legal
8 status to hardworking, taxpaying, law-
9 abiding immigrant workers already estab-
10 lished in the United States;

11 (ii) to clear the path to citizenship for
12 immigrant workers;

13 (iii) to ensure fair treatment on the
14 job for immigrant workers;

15 (iv) to reunite families; and

16 (v) to respect the civil rights and civil
17 liberties of immigrants;

18 (2) recognizes and honors the millions of immi-
19 grant workers in the United States who work hard,
20 pay taxes, and contribute to our economy and our
21 communities; and

22 (3) encourages the Congress and the President
23 to support policies that accomplish the goals of the
24 Immigrant Worker Freedom Ride.

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