

WHEREAS, Article 1 Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States confers upon Congress the responsibility to "establish a uniform rule of naturalization;" and

WHEREAS, the power of Congress to legislate the terms and conditions on which foreign born persons may enter the United States is absolute, being an attribute of the United States as a sovereign nation; and

WHEREAS, Congress has executed its responsibility since 1790, with the enactment of the Naturalization Act, and most recently with the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996; and

WHEREAS, current federal immigration law is broken and demands revision by Congress; and

WHEREAS, the State of Arizona recently enacted the Safe Neighborhoods Act to require law enforcement to verify the immigration status of any person they suspect might be in the state illegally and to establish a felony for employers who fail to use federal databases to verify job applicants; and

WHEREAS, allowing an individual's appearance or accent to precipitate an investigation into their legal status is in direct contradiction to the Constitution's Fourteenth Amendment guarantees of equal protection; and

WHEREAS, Arizona law enforcement officials complain that the measure will replace community trust with fear, overload county jails, courts and budgets and does not provide for training or technology needed for its enforcement; and

WHEREAS, the fact that our nation's immigration system is broken does not justify violating the principles of justice on which our nation was founded;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TEXAS BORDER COALITION:

1) The United States Congress should act with all deliberate dispatch to comprehensively reform the United States immigration system to strengthen national security and the rule of law; create an immigration system that functions efficiently for employers, workers, and government agencies; provide a program that allows hard working, tax paying undocumented workers to earn legal status; ensure that U.S. workers are not displaced by foreign workers; and

- 2) The Texas Delegation in the U.S. Congress should provide the leadership necessary to reform the U.S. immigration system; and
- 3) The State of Arizona should repeal its ill-considered Safe Neighborhoods Act and join with like-minded citizens and states in pursuing congressional enactment of an effective reform of United States immigration law; and
- 4) The elected leadership of Texas, including the Texas Legislature, should join in encouraging Congress to enact an immigration reform bill; and
- 5) Texas Governor Rick Perry should be commended for his leadership in declaring that the Arizona-type statute "would not be the right direction for Texas" and for his support for the federal government to act to properly secure the border and reform immigration.