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Immigration & Border Security

**Mission:**

**To make Legislative recommendations to help the Texas Border Region grow and prosper economically.**



**A Resolution In Support of Reform of the United States Immigration System And to Strengthen the Rule of Law**

WHEREAS, Article 1 Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States confers upon the United States Congress the exclusive 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, Congress has failed to reform the 1996 Act to address the growing numbers of individuals wishing entrance to the United States through a temporary work visa program or as legal permanent residents; and

WHEREAS, undocumented immigrants and their native born children live “underground” in the United States, unable to obtain legal employment, drivers’ licenses, car or health insurance; and

WHEREAS, immigrants are barred from most federal public assistance, burdening local government with the role of providing social services, education, and health care.

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

1. The United States Congress should 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 undocumented workers to earn legal status; and ensure that U.S. workers are not displaced by foreign workers; and
2. Congress should enact legislation that addresses the growing demand for visas for individuals wishing entrance to the United States through a temporary work visa program or as legal permanent residents, including a streamlined visa renewal process; and

3. The federal government should enforce immigration law consistently and vigorously to eliminate illegal entry at the borders, employment without proper documentation (including an accurate and efficient system for employers to indentify unlawful applicants), identify and deport criminal aliens; and
4. The federal government must increase the number of enforcement personnel at the border land ports of entry to prevent the entry of those who wish to enter our country illegally or otherwise mean our country harm; and
5. Local public safety personnel should not be conscripted into federal or state service because the federal government has not adequately funded and staffed its immigration enforcement agencies; and
6. The United States Congress should establish a process whereby undocumented immigrants currently living in the United States may earn legalized status through payment of appropriate fees and back taxes, background checks, the absence of criminal or gang activity, a consistent work history, and by meeting English and civics requirements.
7. The Legislature of the State of Texas should respect the U.S. Constitution and abstain from lawmaking in this policy realm.

Adopted, this day of December 1, 2010, by unanimous vote of the Texas Border Coalition. Copies of this original resolution shall be immediately communicated to the public, elected officials of the State of Texas and the United States of America.

ATTEST:



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The Honorable John David Franz  
Chairman of the Texas Border Coalition and  
Mayor of the City Hidalgo, Texas