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A resolution by Supervisors Sartori and Alexander, requesting the Wisconsin Congressional Delegation to support and advocate for the creation of a bipartisan commission to study United States of America immigration policy and border security, by recommending adoption of the following:

AN AMENDED RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the United States of America (U.S.) was founded by immigrants who traveled from around the world to seek a better life; and

WHEREAS, the Immigration and Naturalization Act (INA) is the body of law that governs immigration policy; and

WHEREAS, INA allows 675,000 permanent immigrants on an annual basis, with certain exceptions for close family members; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, the U.S. immigrant population was more than 43.3 million or 13.5 percent of the 321.4 million total U.S. population, according to the American Community Survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, there were 11.1 million unauthorized immigrants in the U.S., which accounts for 3.5 percent of the nation’s population; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Homeland Security defines an “unauthorized immigrant” as a foreign-born, non-citizen who is not a legal resident; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, the U.S. civilian workforce included eight million unauthorized immigrants, per a 2016 Pew Research Center study; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, 5.8 million unauthorized immigrants from Mexico lived in the U.S., and the number of unauthorized immigrants from Asia, Central America, and sub-Saharan Africa has grown to an estimated total of 5.3 million in 2014, according to 2016 Pew Research Center estimates; and

WHEREAS, while the human rights of authorized and unauthorized immigrants are to be respected and protected, border security and the protection of U.S. citizens is also of utmost importance; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, there were 408,870 apprehensions at the U.S. Southwest Border Sectors, with 102,105 of those apprehensions involving juveniles according to U.S. Customs and Border Protection; and

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WHEREAS, the rise of the Islamic State and other terrorist organizations continue to present security threats to our borders and require innovative responses; and

WHEREAS, per a February 2014 Gallop poll, 44 percent of Americans say it is extremely important for the U.S. to develop a plan to deal with the large number of immigrants already living in the U.S., and 43 percent say it's extremely important to halt the flow of illegal immigrants into the country by securing the borders; and

WHEREAS, because an authorized, green card holding immigrant can be legally detained, arrested, imprisoned, and continuously held, for up to six months without ever being charged or informed as to why they have been imprisoned, as exemplified in the case of Wisconsin resident Selepri Amachree, the need for serious consideration of immigration policies is not limited to the issue of unauthorized immigration and includes the need for sensible revisions to policies affecting authorized immigrants as well; and

WHEREAS, in the current political climate of polarization and partisanship, work across the aisle and cooperation amongst differing ideologies is needed to make structural reforms to U.S. immigration policy; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. urgently needs legislation to correct the failings of our immigration system, and to strike a balance between respecting the human rights of unauthorized workers, protection of our borders, and maintenance of Milwaukee County's security; and

WHEREAS, the Committee on Intergovernmental Relations, at its meeting of September 22, 2017, recommended adoption of File No. 17-302 as amended (vote 3-0); now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors (County Board) requests the Wisconsin Congressional Delegation to support and advocate for the creation of a bipartisan commission, composed of legislators and experts in the field of immigration policy, to study United States of America (U.S.) immigration policy and border security; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County Board's Legislative Liaison, Office of Government Affairs, is authorized and directed to deliver a copy of this request to the President of the U.S., the Wisconsin Congressional Delegation, the National Association of Counties, National League of Cities, and Wisconsin Counties Association.

jmj
09/22/17
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