

3
4 **A RESOLUTION**
5

6 In support of immigrants, refugees, and asylum-seekers; calling upon the United States
7 Federal Government to create a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants
8

9
10 WHEREAS, in the base of the Statue of Liberty resides a bronze plaque
11 depicting Emma Lazarus' 1883 sonnet which concludes:
12

13 "Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries she
14 With silent lips. "Give me your tired, your poor,
15 Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
16 The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
17 Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
18 I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"
19

20 ; and
21

22 WHEREAS, Milwaukee County values the contribution its immigrants have made
23 in the past 150 years and has recently demonstrated that by:
24

- 25 • In File No.12-135, the County established a limited policy by which Milwaukee
26 County would respect detainer requests on what are called "non-resident,"
27 "undocumented," or "illegal aliens" from the United States Department of
28 Homeland Security – Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE); and
- 29 • In 2018 the County stated its unambiguous opposition to the President of the
30 United States' "zero tolerance" policy whereby the federal government
31 intentionally separated children from their families (File No. 18-549); and
- 32 • In File No. 19-273, the County supported the ability of all Wisconsin residents,
33 regardless of immigration status, to be able to acquire a driver license to facilitate
34 identification, discourage targeting by local law enforcement, and enable workers
35 to get to their jobs and support the economy
36

37 ; and
38

39 WHEREAS, the last major comprehensive federal immigration legislation was the
40 Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986, signed into law by President Ronald
41 Reagan, which among other things, enabled lawful permanent residence and eventually

42 the possibility of citizenship to those without lawful residency and work status and no
43 significant changes to the immigration system have occurred since then; and

44

45 WHEREAS, immigrant workers and the children of immigrants have filled many
46 of the “essential” jobs during the COVID-19 Pandemic, among others, keeping
47 Milwaukee County grocery stores stocked with food and other general goods stores
48 supplied, meanwhile an April 1, 2021 *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* article titled, “Easter’s
49 timeless message of hope and renewal seems particularly timely as churches cautiously
50 return to normal,” reported that Milwaukee’s dense south side immigrant neighborhoods
51 saw the most COVID-19 cases in the City of Milwaukee; and

52

53 WHEREAS, the need for employees in the Wisconsin economy is real and it is
54 time for those hard workers who contribute to American society and pay taxes without
55 representation, the ability to fully participate in society; and

56

57 WHEREAS, Article 1 of the 1947 United Nations Universal Declaration of Human
58 Rights, adopted by the United States, declares, “All human beings are born free and
59 equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should
60 act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.”; and therefore all immigrants,
61 refugees, and asylum seekers, regardless of employment, educational attainment or
62 other status, deserve dignity and representation; and

63

64 WHEREAS, the Committee on Intergovernmental Relations, at its meeting of
65 July 15, 2021, recommended adoption of File No. 21-599 (vote 4-0); now, therefore,

66

67 BE IT RESOLVED, Milwaukee County hereby calls upon the United States
68 Federal Government to treat undocumented immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers
69 with dignity and to implement the following by appropriate legislative or executive action:

70

- 71 • Create a pathway to citizenship for approximately 11 million undocumented
- 72 immigrants
- 73 • Maintain the principle of unifying families in the family visa program
- 74 • Improve the US refugee and asylum systems so all individuals may have their
- 75 cases adjudicated in a timely manner

76

77 ; and

78

79 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Office of Government Affairs staff is authorized
80 and requested to communicate the contents of this resolution to federal policymakers,
81 and support legislation that achieves the criteria outlined in this resolution.

82

83
84
85

07/15/21
s:\committees\2021\jul\igr\resolutions\21-599 pathway to citizenship.docx