

RESOLUTION 2009-51
CONCERNING THE FEDERAL COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

Whereas, the New Mexico Municipal League recognizes the economic, social and cultural contributions that immigrants bring to New Mexico's communities; and

Whereas, one of the responsibilities of municipal leaders is to protect the wellbeing and safety of all the people residing in their cities; and

Whereas, the New Mexico Legislature, with broad support from law enforcement, faith, business, labor and community organizations, as well as local governments, have passed laws meant to integrate immigrants into our communities, such as the provision of driver's licenses and in-state tuition at state colleges to qualified persons regardless of immigration status; and

Whereas, many local governments have passed resolutions, ordinances and policy directives recognizing that it is the role of the federal government to enforce civil immigration laws and reaffirming non-participation in the enforcement of civil immigration law by city officials and agencies in order to promote immigrant trust in its police and avert racial profiling and civil rights violations; and

Whereas, the International Association of Chiefs of Police Guide to Immigration Issues concludes that local police leaders face a growing set of immigration related duties in the face of scarce and narrowing resources; and

Whereas, the New Mexico Municipal League opposes the separation of families by raids and other activities meant to enforce our current broken immigration system and supports the reunification of families that have been so separated, especially those "mixed status" families with U.S. citizen children of which there are an estimated four million children currently in this country; and

Whereas, the New Mexico Municipal League supports the establishment of a federal process whereby undocumented immigrants currently living in the US may earn legalized status through payment of appropriate fees and other reasonable requirements; and

Whereas, the New Mexico Municipal League supports an efficient immigration program that enables business to hire qualified foreign workers to meet local economic demands; and

Whereas, the New Mexico Municipal Leagues believes that immigration reform must occur in a comprehensive, thoughtful manner that focuses on the creation of economic opportunities and that strengthens families and communities;

Whereas, the National League of Cities has adopted as one of its policy priorities the support of comprehensive immigration reform at the federal level; and

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by the New Mexico Municipal League calls on Congress to enact comprehensive immigration reform that addresses (1) smart, efficient border security (2) the reunification of immigrant families (3) a path to citizenship for undocumented workers currently in the U.S. (4) legal means of immigration for foreign nationals who want to work in the U.S. temporarily, as well as for those who desire to become legal permanent residents or gain citizenship, (5) resources to help cities alleviate the economic impact of delivering services to new residents (6) resources to help cities integrate new residents into their communities.

Be It Further Resolved that the New Mexico Municipal League reaffirms its commitment to civil rights and equal access to all municipal services including police protection regardless of immigration status and that it opposes legislation encouraging or compelling local law enforcement to enforce federal civil immigration laws.

Be It Further Resolved that copies of this resolution be sent to New Mexico's Congressional delegation.

Passed, Approved and Adopted this 3rd day of September at the City of Albuquerque, New Mexico.