

House Joint Memorial 11

Sponsored by Representative CONGER

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Urges Congress to pass legislation providing pathway to citizenship for children of illegal immigrants.

JOINT MEMORIAL

1 To the President of the United States and the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United
2 States of America, in Congress assembled:

3 We, your memorialists, the Seventy-seventh Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon, in
4 legislative session assembled, respectfully represent as follows:

5 Whereas of the nearly 5.5 million children of illegal immigrants in the United States, approxi-
6 mately one million children were brought here illegally by their parents at a young age; and

7 Whereas children brought to the United States have a very limited, ineffective and onerous
8 pathway to gaining United States citizenship despite the experience of growing up, being educated
9 and working with other United States citizens; and

10 Whereas children without legal status in the United States face difficult and often insurmount-
11 able obstacles to such resources as gaining education and employment, accessing health care and
12 acquiring a driver license; and

13 Whereas according to studies, because of their lack of legal status, even those children of illegal
14 immigrants who achieve a high degree of academic success and grow up in the United States have
15 difficulty finding a career that matches their educational training; and

16 Whereas 21 percent of students enrolled in Oregon kindergarten through grade 12 public schools
17 are Latino; and

18 Whereas there are currently over 200,000 Latinos in the workforce in Oregon, representing 10.5
19 percent of the workforce; and

20 Whereas a recent survey showed a 78 percent increase in the number of Latino-owned busi-
21 nesses in Oregon during a five-year period, up from 6,360 businesses in 2002 to 11,338 businesses in
22 2007; and

23 Whereas the Oregon Center for Public Policy estimates that undocumented immigrants in
24 Oregon earned between \$2.3 billion and \$4.5 billion in 2011 and contributed between \$154 million
25 and \$309 million in state and federal taxes; and

26 Whereas providing an expedited and efficient pathway to citizenship for children of illegal im-
27 migrants and the subsequent expansion of the legal workforce could result in unprecedented eco-
28 nomic productivity and strengthened global economic competitiveness; and

29 Whereas the incentive of citizenship would lead to greater security and stability with required
30 national security and criminal background checks for those pursuing legal status and citizenship;
31

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 and

2 Whereas children of illegal immigrants who attain citizenship would legally earn income, pay
3 taxes and own homes in the United States, contributing to funding government programs and stim-
4 ulating growth in the national economy; now, therefore,

5 **Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:**

6 (1) The Congress of the United States of America is respectfully urged to pass legislation im-
7 proving and expediting the United States immigration system to provide children of illegal immi-
8 grants with a pathway to citizenship.

9 (2) A copy of this memorial shall be sent to the President of the United States, to the Senate
10 Majority Leader, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and to each member of the Oregon
11 Congressional Delegation.

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