

SJR38

By Senators Bedford and Beason

ENROLLED, SJR38,

URGING THE PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS TO SUPPORT THE STATE'S EFFORT TO SECURE THE BORDERS AND PROTECT THE WORKFORCE.

WHEREAS, the federal government is responsible for securing the U.S. border and for passing and enforcing effective immigration laws; and

WHEREAS, the federal government is also responsible for passing and enforcing a guest worker program to ensure that the United States has an adequate workforce; and

WHEREAS, in 2007, the Legislature of Alabama concluded that immigration has become a paramount issue facing the state and a Joint Interim Patriotic Immigration Commission was established to conduct a fact finding study on immigration issues and to issue a commission report outlining suggestions and proposals to address the issues of illegal and legal immigration in Alabama to the Legislature, Governor, and members of the Alabama Congressional Delegation; and

WHEREAS, the commission released its report on February 11, 2008, and after careful thought, study, and consideration, made certain recommendations for federal action; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature of Alabama endorses the Joint Interim Patriotic Immigration Commission Report and its federal recommendations; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we hereby urge the President and Congress to:

(1) Develop a comprehensive guest worker program that would systematically identify the needs of all American industries and provide for an adequate and timely supply of guest workers. This guest worker program should:

- a. Ensure that jobs are made available first to American workers.
- b. Ensure that employer responsibilities are clearly defined and guest worker rights are protected.
- c. Ensure that program application and administration procedures are streamlined and that employer administrative costs are reduced to the maximum extent possible.

(2) Allocate adequate resources to the Department of Homeland Security and other federal agencies to effectively secure America's borders and ensure that existing immigration laws are fully enforced.

(3) Allocate adequate resources to the Department of Homeland Security to ensure that the current employment eligibility verification system, E-verify, or any successor system, is fully functional, accurate, and accessible to all employers. We further recommend that this system be made available to employers for verification of employment eligibility for all employees. In addition, we recommend that the E-verification or successor system contain a safe harbor provision for all participating companies.

(4) Instruct all federal agencies that federal benefits shall be delivered only to individuals qualified to receive those benefits and that these agencies should require adequate identification to ensure that applicants are in fact qualified.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution and the Joint Interim Patriotic Immigration Commission Report be provided to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United States, the Vice President of the United States, the United States Secretary of Homeland Security, and each member of the Alabama Congressional Delegation for further distribution to each member of Congress for his or her consideration and action on this important issue.