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State of Minnesota

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-FIFTH SESSION

HOUSE FILE No. 771

February 8, 2007

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The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Higher Education and Work Force Development Policy and Finance Division

March 1, 2007

Committee Recommendation and Adoption of Report:

To Pass

Read Second Time

1.1 A resolution

1.2 memorializing the President and Congress to promote the United States' ability to  
1.3 compete in the global marketplace for talented and necessary workers.

1.4 WHEREAS, immigration policy is set at the federal level, but the actual benefits and  
1.5 challenges of immigration are felt at the state and local levels; and

1.6 WHEREAS, discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, and national origin  
1.7 is prohibited by the Minnesota Human Rights Act as well as the United States Constitution; and

1.8 WHEREAS, state and local resources should be used to strengthen communities, not to  
1.9 support a broken federal immigration system, particularly where public safety is placed at risk; and

1.10 WHEREAS, the shortfall of young workers and the growing demand for low-skill jobs to  
1.11 support the development of the Governor's proposed Economic Empowerment Zones create a  
1.12 need for immigrant workers in Minnesota; and

1.13 WHEREAS, immigrants and employers are forced into an underground market as only  
1.14 5,000 visas for low-skill positions are issued for an estimated 500,000 jobs available each  
1.15 year; and

1.16 WHEREAS, it is beneficial for new immigrants, the host communities, the state, and  
1.17 the nation for immigrants to quickly adjust to and integrate into life in Minnesota, learn  
1.18 English, become citizens, buy homes, start businesses, send their children to college, and thrive  
1.19 economically; and

1.20 WHEREAS, immigrants make important contributions to the economic, social, and  
1.21 political vitality of the United States and the state of Minnesota; and

2.1 WHEREAS, the state of Minnesota has a proud tradition of recognizing and rewarding hard  
2.2 work ethic, determination, and citizenship; NOW, THEREFORE,

2.3 BE IT RESOLVED by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota that the Congress of the  
2.4 United States should speedily enact: (a) comprehensive immigration reform that includes: (1)  
2.5 provisions that prioritize and expedite family reunification; (2) the expansion of the number of  
2.6 both high- and low skill work visas that satisfy the workforce demands of local communities  
2.7 in agriculture and business industry; and (3) the provisions of S. 1033/H.R. 2330, the Secure  
2.8 America and Orderly Immigration Act, particularly the following provisions that support the  
2.9 state government initiatives: (i) TITLE IX, Section 902, a competitive grant program to fund  
2.10 certified entities to provide civics and English classes; and (ii) TITLE X, Section 1001, federal  
2.11 reimbursement of hospitals for the emergency care of undocumented immigrants; and (b)  
2.12 legislation that provides federal impact aid to the state of Minnesota.

2.13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of State of the State of Minnesota is  
2.14 directed to prepare copies of this memorial and transmit them to the President of the United States,  
2.15 the President and Secretary of the United States Senate, the Speaker and Clerk of the United  
2.16 States House of Representatives, and Minnesota's Senators and Representatives in Congress.