

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. HJ0016

Immigration reform.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Philp and Hammons and
Senator(s) Peterson

A Bill

for

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION requesting that Congress pass effective
2 and meaningful immigration law reform designed to protect
3 Wyoming's workforce and economic strength of the state's
4 business environment by effectively protecting and guarding
5 our nation's borders.

6

7 WHEREAS, current federal immigration laws fail to address
8 labor shortages and marketplace dynamics in the United
9 States; and

10

11 WHEREAS, the lack of guidance from current federal law
12 regarding foreign seasonal employees and guest workers
13 promotes unlawful immigration into the United States and
14 negatively impacts the state's economy; and

15

1 WHEREAS, inadequately addressing illegal immigration
2 exhausts the State of Wyoming's limited resources including
3 social services, health care and law enforcement and
4 results in economic hardship for the state and its citizens
5 and legal residents; and

6

7 WHEREAS, development of comprehensive immigration policy
8 and law designed to preserve and protect the nation's
9 borders and resources is necessary to safeguard its
10 citizens and legal residents; and

11

12 WHEREAS, allowing foreign and guest workers reasonable
13 access to our country's borders serves the needs of Wyoming
14 industry by providing a timely, stable and legal supply of
15 workers where no United States citizen or legal resident
16 workers are available; and

17

18 WHEREAS, Congress is urged to include the Foreign Worker
19 Visa system as part of any immigration reform; and

20

21 WHEREAS, solving the problem of the existence of millions
22 of undocumented persons present in the United States is
23 complex and requires immediate attention; and

24

1 WHEREAS, development of a national program that efficiently
2 screens and processes applicants for guest worker status is
3 crucial to the health and economic vitality of Wyoming
4 businesses and industry; and

5

6 WHEREAS, it is necessary to develop a guest worker program
7 and immigration policy that facilitates individuals seeking
8 legal entry into the United States for work and
9 reestablishing family relationships; and

10

11 WHEREAS, eliminating current visa backlogs and preventing
12 future backlogs in order to meet workforce demands is
13 crucial to the health of the nation's business and
14 industry; and

15

16 WHEREAS, streamlining the processing of H-2A visa
17 applications will enable agricultural employers to hire
18 foreign workers needed for seasonal jobs and will benefit
19 the state's economy.

20

21 *NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE*
22 *LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING:*

23

1 **Section 1.** That President Barack Obama and the
2 members of the United States Congress take swift action to
3 enhance and enforce federal immigration policy and law and
4 provide a comprehensive solution to the problem of illegal
5 immigration existing in the State of Wyoming and the
6 nation.

7

8 **Section 2.** That Congress is urged to significantly
9 increase the number of immigrant visas issued annually,
10 increase the current limits on H-1B and H-2B visas,
11 particularly in the industries requiring highly trained and
12 educated workers and seasonal hospitality operations, to
13 alleviate the difficulty of hiring guest or seasonal
14 workers.

15

16 **Section 3.** That Congress is urged to expedite work
17 authorization documents for foreign nationals who obtain
18 university degrees from United States institutions to
19 ensure that individuals educated in the United States are
20 provided with an opportunity to give back to the nation
21 that has invested in the individual.

22

1 **Section 4.** That the Secretary of State of Wyoming
2 transmit copies of this resolution to the President of the
3 United States, to the President of the Senate and the
4 Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United
5 States Congress and to the Wyoming Congressional
6 Delegation.

7

8

(END)