

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
CHULA VISTA SUPPORTING A COMPREHENSIVE
APPROACH TO IMMIGRATION REFORM

WHEREAS, the City of Chula Vista is a diverse city with residents that include immigrants and refugees from many parts of the world who work, own homes, operate businesses, and contribute to the economic, social, and cultural well-being of the City; and

WHEREAS, the United States is a beacon of liberty with due process and civil rights firmly embedded in the democratic principles of this nation, principles that must be reflected in our immigration system; and

WHEREAS, years of gridlock in Congress on immigration reform have created a broken immigration system which has led to harmful social and economic implications for the residents, many of them living in San Diego County and in the South Bay region, where the City of Chula Vista is situated; and

WHEREAS, the cities of Chula Vista and Tijuana share significant economic, social and cultural ties; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the cultural and social riches our nation receives through our border, it also drives regional and national economic development approaching \$500 billion in trade and 1 in 24 jobs in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the City of Chula Vista supports added investment in infrastructure and technology as well as adequate staffing of ports of entry in order to keep up with the pace of the expansion of bilateral trade and the population growth of the border region, including the implementation of policies that take into account the protection of human rights and human dignity; and

WHEREAS, it is important that immigration reform preserve families and keep them together, regardless of the immigration status, race, ethnicity, religion, gender, national origin, age, disability, family structure, sexual orientation, gender identity, including same-sex couples, and provide sufficient family-based channels for migration in the future; and

WHEREAS, the City of Chula Vista supports, and immigration reform should include, a pathway to citizenship for the over 11 million undocumented immigrants living within our nation's borders; and

WHEREAS, it is especially important to provide a pathway to citizenship for those individuals who were brought to or entered into the United States without proper documentation as young children and have been raised and educated in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the current visa backlog for family-sponsored immigration petitions is over 20 years long and deters individuals wanting to come to the United States from doing so; and

WHEREAS, reform must clear out the visa backlog, streamline the process for procuring visas, and include business accountability measures to ensure that U.S. companies have the resources they need when talent is not available; and

WHEREAS, cities with large immigrant populations are safer with less property crime, are more likely to be in better economic conditions and have higher wages than cities with smaller immigrant communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Chula Vista urges the 115th Congress to create a reasonable, bi-partisan and comprehensive approach to reform the currently broken immigration system that is in the best interests of the City of Chula Vista, the greater Cali-Baja region, and the nation, as described in this Resolution.

Presented by:

Mayor Mary Casillas-Salas