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LRB103 40356 MST 73136 a

1 AMENDMENT TO HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 69

2 AMENDMENT NO. _____. Amend House Joint Resolution 69 by
3 deleting everything after the heading and replacing it with
4 the following:

5 "WHEREAS, Under the federal Immigration and Nationality
6 Act, 8 USC §1182(d)(5), the federal government has the
7 discretionary authority to grant parole, permission to
8 temporarily remain in the United States and apply for
9 employment authorization, to any noncitizen "on a case-by-case
10 basis for urgent humanitarian reasons or significant public
11 benefit," and the US Supreme Court has recognized this
12 authority as recently as its 2022 decision in Biden v. Texas,
13 597 U.S. ___, 142 S. Ct. 2528; and

14 WHEREAS, The U.S. government has exercised its parole
15 authority in a wide variety of ways for humanitarian reasons
16 and significant public benefit; and

1 WHEREAS, A program known as Military Parole in Place
2 already exists for spouses, parents, or children, who are
3 undocumented, of active-duty or former active duty members of
4 the U.S. Armed Forces and the Selected Reserve of the Ready
5 Reserve; and

6 WHEREAS, President Biden has utilized parole more than any
7 other U.S. president in history, extending the program to more
8 than 1 million people over the past three years; and

9 WHEREAS, Illinois is home to 1.8 million immigrants,
10 comprising 14% of the State's population, the great majority
11 of whom are naturalized citizens or legal permanent residents,
12 according to the Illinois Immigrant Impact Task Force Report;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, Immigration is critical to maintaining Illinois
15 populations levels, compensating for declines in the
16 native-born population; and

17 WHEREAS, Immigrants play a key role in the State of
18 Illinois through cultural, economic, and social contributions,
19 and the dignity and humanity of our immigrant communities
20 transcend their substantial role in the labor force; and

1 WHEREAS, The U.S. is experiencing an unprecedented labor
2 shortage across multiple sectors of our economy that are vital
3 to our national well-being; and

4 WHEREAS, In the State of Illinois, the fifth largest
5 economy in the United States, critical industries, such as
6 manufacturing, transportation, warehousing, agriculture,
7 healthcare, childcare, senior/home care, hospitality,
8 construction, and education, are experiencing a prolonged
9 staffing shortage that is harming their growth and
10 competitiveness; and

11 WHEREAS, According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, as
12 analyzed by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Illinois has, on
13 average, 76 available workers for every 100 jobs; and

14 WHEREAS, The Illinois Department of Employment Security
15 (IDES) reports that the largest number of high-demand,
16 high-wage job openings through 2030 are in occupations that
17 require short-term or moderate-term on-the-job training,
18 including over 56,000 annual openings in the restaurant
19 sector, over 41,000 annual openings for laborers, assemblers,
20 and maintenance workers, over 59,000 annual openings for
21 cashiers and retail sales and customer service
22 representatives, and over 15,000 annual openings in home
23 health and personal care aides; and

1 WHEREAS, The Illinois Farm Bureau has indicated that local
2 worker shortages are among the top current challenges for
3 Illinois farmers, suppliers, and processors, including
4 locating qualified truck drivers to haul grain and sourcing
5 enough hands to pick vegetables or manage livestock, and
6 furthermore, that this shortage in the agricultural supply
7 chains continues to not only undermine the financial health of
8 farms in Illinois but, more importantly, threaten food
9 security, and, ultimately, our national security; and

10 WHEREAS, The Illinois State Board of Education's (ISBE)
11 2023 Unfilled Positions Report shows that school districts in
12 Illinois reported more unfilled positions in FY23 than they
13 did in FY22; there continues to be a high demand for
14 paraprofessionals and teachers, particularly in the City of
15 Chicago, the Northeast region, and the East Central region,
16 and the demand for paraprofessionals, who often serve special
17 education and bilingual students, outweighs the supply; and

18 WHEREAS, The Illinois Nursing Workforce Center reports
19 that the State is facing an estimated shortfall of nearly
20 15,000 nurses by 2025 and a deficit of 6,200 physicians by
21 2030, fueled in part by pandemic burnout and by providers
22 leaving the profession or retiring, as 52% of the almost
23 195,000 RNs in Illinois are over the age of 55 with 27%

1 planning to retire in the next five years and less than 8,000
2 nurses graduating each year; and

3 WHEREAS, The Migration Policy Institute estimates that
4 there are more than 12,000 Illinois residents with
5 international healthcare degrees who are prohibited from
6 providing care due to licensing or worker authorization; and

7 WHEREAS, The Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
8 reports that many seniors in the Illinois Community Cares
9 Program (CCP) are already going without the care they should
10 receive due to a severe workforce shortage, and the number of
11 authorized CCP hours not serviced has increased by 46%; much
12 of the increased need for home care is associated with the
13 increasing number of senior Illinoisans, a strong preference
14 for in-home rather than nursing facility services, and a
15 strong preference for culturally competent care; IDES projects
16 that Illinois will need an additional 9,000 home care workers
17 annually for each of the next ten years; and

18 WHEREAS, In the education sector alone, Illinois school
19 districts report a high number of unfilled teaching and
20 paraprofessional positions; and

21 WHEREAS, Teachers and paraprofessionals are essential for
22 primary and secondary school students in our State,

1 particularly for special education and bilingual students; and

2 WHEREAS, The existing worker shortage is so great that
3 many school districts have been forced to contract workers
4 directly from abroad, even though long-term immigrants are
5 well-suited to fill these positions; and

6 WHEREAS, Despite the State's critical need for labor,
7 nearly half a million Illinoisans who are undocumented are
8 still unable to legally work; and

9 WHEREAS, Nearly 30% of Illinoisans who are undocumented
10 have been residing and contributing to the workforce in the
11 U.S. for over 20 years; and

12 WHEREAS, The majority of residents in Illinois who are
13 undocumented reside in mixed status families with U.S. citizen
14 and lawful permanent resident family members; and

15 WHEREAS, Long-term immigrant workers in Illinois who are
16 undocumented empower key sectors of the economy, including
17 manufacturing, farming, food production, senior/home care,
18 child care, healthcare, education, construction, hospitality,
19 and warehousing, contributing to our State's prosperity and
20 also contributing approximately \$1.5 billion in taxes per
21 year; and

1 WHEREAS, Granting work permits will provide a significant
2 public benefit to Illinois' economy by expanding the formal
3 workforce to include all who have the eligibility to work,
4 while increasing taxes paid to the State; and

5 WHEREAS, The exclusion from federal benefits leaves
6 long-term immigrant workers who are undocumented and their
7 families vulnerable and forces the State of Illinois to spend
8 our tax dollars to provide critical health care and other
9 benefits; and

10 WHEREAS, Illinois provides limited benefits and resources
11 for individuals who are undocumented, including limited
12 healthcare coverage for low-income qualifying immigrants, much
13 of which would be unnecessary if the undocumented had work
14 permits and could secure such benefits through their
15 employment; and

16 WHEREAS, Granting work permits would allow workers to earn
17 a fair wage and secure benefits, including health insurance;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, Granting work permits would aid in the
20 enforcement of existing labor laws, thereby reducing the
21 exploitation of our lowest wage workers, the majority of whom

1 are workers of color and immigrants; and

2 WHEREAS, Work permits would enable tens of thousands of
3 students in Illinois who are undocumented and without the
4 protection of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) to
5 support themselves and their families, fund their continued
6 education, and contribute to the State and national economies;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Despite the protections Illinois has enacted to
9 protect long-term immigrant workers who are undocumented, they
10 continue to be at risk of deportation, family separation,
11 exploitation at work, and exclusion from health care and other
12 benefits due to their immigration status, all of which
13 negatively affects Illinois' economy and public safety and the
14 quality-of-life in our communities; and

15 WHEREAS, For all of these reasons, work permits for
16 long-term immigrant workers would be a significant public
17 benefit to the State of Illinois; and

18 WHEREAS, Only the federal government can issue work
19 permits to people who are undocumented under its parole
20 authority; and

21 WHEREAS, Undocumented immigrants in Illinois and

1 throughout the United States ultimately need permanent
2 solutions, such as updating the federal registry program and
3 other broad legalization legislation, that would enable them
4 to gain permanent lawful status and more fully live with
5 dignity and participate in the economic, civic, and social
6 life of our nation; and

7 WHEREAS, The U.S. Congress and the White House must act
8 urgently to pass such permanent solutions; and

9 WHEREAS, Short of Congressional action, the White House
10 and the Department of Homeland Security must use all available
11 tools to protect and improve the lives of immigrants as
12 members of our community; therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
14 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE
15 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that we urge the President of the
16 United States to authorize the DHS Secretary to establish a
17 program to evaluate parole and work authorization on a
18 case-by-case basis for long-term immigrant workers who are
19 undocumented and residing in Illinois to address this State's
20 critical need for labor and to secure the family life for tens
21 of thousands of mixed status families in Illinois and to work
22 with DHS and the US Department of Justice to zealously defend
23 any such program from potential legal challenges; and be it

1 further

2 RESOLVED, That we urge the Governor to work with federal
3 partners to urge, by all possible means, the establishment of
4 such a parole and work authorization program for the long-term
5 immigrant population who are undocumented and residing in
6 Illinois; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
8 delivered to the Office of the President of the United States
9 and to all members of the Illinois Congressional Delegation."