



HJ0069

LRB103 40356 MST 72626 r

1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, On June 30, 2022, the U.S. Supreme Court affirmed
3 that U.S. immigration law expressly authorizes the Department
4 of Homeland Security (DHS) to grant "parole", permission to
5 temporarily remain in the United States and apply for a work
6 permit to certain people who are undocumented without
7 Congressional approval for "urgent humanitarian reasons or
8 significant public benefit" so long as the exercise of such
9 discretion is "reasonable and reasonably explained" on a case
10 by case basis per *Biden v. Texas*, 142 S. Ct. 2528 (2022); and

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

14 WHEREAS, A program known as Military Parole in Place
15 already exists for spouses, parents, or children, who are
16 undocumented, of active-duty or former active duty members of
17 the U.S. Armed Forces and the Selected Reserve of the Ready
18 Reserve; and

19 WHEREAS, Amidst Congressional inaction on immigration
20 reform, President Biden has utilized parole more than any
21 other U.S. president in history, extending the program to more
22 than 1 million people who are undocumented over the past two

1 years; and

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

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

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

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

1 representatives, and over 15,000 annual openings in home
2 health and personal care aides; and

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

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

20 WHEREAS, The Illinois Nursing Workforce Center reports the
21 State is facing an estimated shortfall of nearly 15,000 nurses
22 by 2025 and a deficit of 6,200 physicians by 2030, fueled in
23 part by pandemic burnout and by providers leaving the

1 profession or retiring, as 52% of the almost 195,000 RNs in
2 Illinois are over the age of 55 with 27% planning to retire in
3 the next five years and less than 8,000 nurses graduating each
4 year; and

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

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

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

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

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

7 WHEREAS, Long-term immigrant workers in Illinois who are
8 undocumented empower key sectors of the economy, including
9 manufacturing, farming, food production, senior/home care,
10 child care, healthcare, education, construction, hospitality,
11 and warehousing, contributing to our State's prosperity and
12 also contributing approximately \$1.5 billion in taxes per
13 year; and

14 WHEREAS, Granting work permits will provide a significant
15 public benefit to Illinois' economy by expanding the formal
16 workforce to include all who have the eligibility to work,
17 while increasing taxes paid to the State; 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

1 primary and secondary school students in our State,
2 particularly for special education and bilingual students; and

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

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

12 WHEREAS, Granting work permits would allow workers to earn
13 a fair wage and secure benefits, including health insurance;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Granting work permits would aid in the
16 enforcement of existing labor laws, thereby reducing the
17 exploitation of our lowest wage workers, the majority of whom
18 are workers of color and immigrants; and

19 WHEREAS, Work permits would protect from deportation tens
20 of thousands of students in Illinois who are undocumented and
21 without the protection of Deferred Action for Childhood

1 Arrivals (DACA) and would ensure that youth who are
2 undocumented get the education they need to support themselves
3 and their families and contribute to the State and national
4 economies; and

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

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

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

21 WHEREAS, Only the federal government can issue work
22 permits to people who are undocumented under its parole

1 authority; therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
3 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE
4 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that we urge the President of the
5 United States to authorize the DHS Secretary to establish a
6 program to evaluate parole and work authorization on a
7 case-by-case basis for long-term immigrant workers who are
8 undocumented and residing in Illinois to address this State's
9 critical need for labor and to secure the family life for tens
10 of thousands of mixed status families in Illinois; and be it
11 further

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

17 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
18 delivered to the Office of the President of the United States
19 and to all members of the Illinois Congressional Delegation.