

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 1614

By Senators Holscher, Faust Goudeau, Haley, Pettey, Schmidt and Ware

3-3

1 A RESOLUTION urging the United States Congress to increase the
2 penalties for violations of federal immigration laws and the United States
3 Immigration and Customs Enforcement to prosecute employers who hire
4 undocumented immigrants.

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6 WHEREAS, Undocumented immigrants make up between 4.4% and
7 5.4% of the United States labor force; and

8 WHEREAS, Companies, hiring managers and other employers who
9 hire undocumented immigrants are choosing to take jobs away from
10 Americans and are setting up an environment that keeps wages low,
11 preventing American workers from earning livable wages; and

12 WHEREAS, While the United States Immigration and Customs
13 Enforcement (ICE) has had the authority to use federal criminal statutes
14 to prosecute individuals and companies that employ undocumented
15 immigrants since 1986, the agency has rarely used that authority; and

16 WHEREAS, A 2019 analysis by the Transactional Records Access
17 Clearinghouse shows that for the 12-month period between April 2018
18 and March 2019, only 11 people and no company was criminally
19 prosecuted in seven cases that were brought by ICE; and

20 WHEREAS, During that same 12-month period, ICE prosecuted
21 86,000 people for illegal entry into the United States, 35,000 people for
22 illegal re-entry into the United States and 5,000 people for helping people
23 to enter the United States illegally; and

24 WHEREAS, Exploitative companies and employers have been
25 allowed to establish a pipeline for the hiring of undocumented immigrants
26 without penalty: Now, therefore,

27 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas:* That the Senate
28 urges the federal government to not only utilize the statutory penalties
29 currently available to curb unlawful immigration but that Congress
30 double the fines for violations of federal immigration law; and

31 *Be it further resolved:* That the Senate urges ICE to pursue criminal
32 prosecution of companies and employers who violate federal immigration
33 laws by hiring undocumented immigrants; and

34 *Be it further resolved:* That the Secretary of the Senate shall send an
35 enrolled copy of this resolution to members of the Kansas congressional
36 delegation and the Acting Director of ICE.