

## Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 1613

By Committee on Federal and State Affairs

2-22

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1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION outlining the principles of the State of  
2 Kansas regarding immigration reform policies.

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4 WHEREAS, Failure to update our federal immigration system  
5 separates and destabilizes Kansas communities, and creates uncertainty,  
6 inefficiency and an uneven playing field for Kansas' citizens, businesses  
7 and economy; and

8 WHEREAS, The forced separation of working parents from their  
9 children weakens families and damages society; and

10 WHEREAS, Failure to address the system where it can be fixed – at  
11 the federal level – has left all states searching for solutions in ways that  
12 have been costly and divisive: Now, therefore,

13 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas, the House of*  
14 *Representatives concurring therein:* That the Legislature recommends the  
15 following basic principles as a guide for state and federal policy on  
16 immigration:

17 1. Immigration is a federal policy issue between the United States  
18 government and other countries – not Kansas and other countries. The  
19 Legislature urges the Kansas congressional delegation to take action to  
20 create a workable immigration system that upholds our values, our  
21 economic needs and moves us forward;

22 2. the Legislature respects the rule of law and supports law  
23 enforcement's professional judgment and discretion. Local law  
24 enforcement resources should focus on criminal activities, not civil  
25 violations of federal code;

26 3. strong families are the foundation of successful communities. The  
27 Legislature opposes policies that unnecessarily separate families. The  
28 Legislature champions policies that support families and improve the  
29 health, education and well-being of all Kansas children;

30 4. the Legislature acknowledges the important economic role  
31 immigrant Kansans play as workers, entrepreneurs and taxpayers. The  
32 immigration policies of Kansas must affirm its reputation as a welcoming  
33 and business-friendly state; and

34 5. immigration is an important part of our past and our future. As in  
35 the past, immigrants are totally integrated into communities across  
36 Kansas. We must adopt a humane approach to this reality, reflecting our

1 values, history and spirit of inclusion and cooperation. The way we treat  
2 immigrants says a lot about our society being fair and just. Kansas should  
3 always be a place that welcomes people of goodwill. Our communities  
4 and our future will be best served by doing so; and

5 *Be it further resolved:* That the Legislature urgently calls upon the  
6 Kansas congressional delegation and the United States Congress to enact  
7 thorough, common sense, workable and humane reforms that reflect the  
8 realities of our country's workforce needs and represent America's values  
9 at its best; and

10 *Be it further resolved:* That the Secretary of the Senate shall send an  
11 enrolled copy of this resolution to the President of the United States, the  
12 Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the President of  
13 the United States Senate and each member of the Kansas congressional  
14 delegation.