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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4017

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**State of Washington**                      **61st Legislature**                      **2009 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives Chandler, Conway, Cox, Warnick, Bailey, Kenney, Johnson, and Ross

Read first time 03/30/09. Referred to Committee on Commerce & Labor.

1            TO THE HONORABLE BARACK OBAMA, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, AND  
2 TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF  
3 REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
4 UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED:

5            We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of  
6 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully  
7 represent and petition as follows:

8            WHEREAS, Agriculture is a cornerstone of Washington's economy and  
9 farm workers are an essential part of Washington's agricultural  
10 industry; and

11           WHEREAS, Agriculture created over eight billion dollars in on-farm  
12 production value and employed over a hundred thousand workers in 2007;  
13 and

14           WHEREAS, Large sectors of Washington agriculture are labor-  
15 intensive and rely on seasonal and immigrant workers to perform vital  
16 labor; and

17           WHEREAS, The Washington agricultural industry requires access to a  
18 legal and stable workforce, and Washington farm workers require legal  
19 and stable employment; and

1       WHEREAS, Immigration reform is required to protect the viability of  
2 Washington's agricultural industry and thousands of immigrant farm  
3 workers who feed our nation and contribute to Washington's economy; and

4       WHEREAS, There is an urgent need for immigration reform as proposed  
5 in the federal Agricultural Job Opportunities, Benefits and Security  
6 (AgJOBS) Act that would: Provide temporary legal status for qualifying  
7 farm workers, with the possibility of becoming permanent residents of  
8 the United States by continuing to work in agriculture and meeting  
9 other requirements; and reform the H-2A temporary visa program in a way  
10 that makes it useable for employers and protective of United States and  
11 foreign workers;

12       NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the United  
13 States Congress enact the AgJOBS legislation to address the need for  
14 immigration reform to protect the agricultural industry and farm  
15 workers.

16       BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately  
17 transmitted to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United  
18 States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the  
19 House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of  
20 Washington.

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