
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8026

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2006 Regular Session

By Senators Stevens and Mulliken

Read first time 01/09/2006. Referred to Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research & Development.

1 TO THE HONORABLE GEORGE W. BUSH, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,
2 AND 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, AND TO MICHAEL CHERTOFF, THE
5 SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY:

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

9 WHEREAS, Due to valid national security concerns, immigration has
10 become an urgent policy issue in the United States; and

11 WHEREAS, The opportunity for employment is one of the most
12 important factors in attracting illegal immigrants to this country; and

13 WHEREAS, The Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 requires
14 employers to verify a prospective employee's immigration status, and
15 provides penalties for employers who hire undocumented workers; and

16 WHEREAS, Some employers continue to encourage illegal immigration
17 by knowingly employing undocumented workers because the penalties for
18 noncomplying employers are low, and enforcement resources are limited;
19 and

1 WHEREAS, There are few protections to keep employers from
2 exploiting those undocumented workers who are often willing to work in
3 difficult conditions for very little compensation; and

4 WHEREAS, Some employers are unknowingly employing illegal
5 immigrants because the federal verification process is often unreliable
6 due to document or identity fraud; and

7 WHEREAS, We would like to prevent this kind of alien trafficking in
8 Washington state, but are preempted by the federal government from
9 regulating in this area;

10 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that federal
11 immigration legislation prohibiting alien trafficking be passed to
12 improve this nation's security. The legislation should provide
13 significantly stronger penalties and enforcement resources to pursue
14 employers who knowingly take advantage of aliens who would seek a
15 better life in our country, and aid their illegal status by hiring
16 undocumented workers. In addition, employers should be assisted in
17 complying with the law through an improved verification system.

18 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
19 transmitted to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United
20 States, Michael Chertoff, the Secretary of the United States Department
21 of Homeland Security, the President of the United States Senate, the
22 Speaker of the House of Representatives, and each member of Congress
23 from the State of Washington.

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