



Georgia Latino Forum Resolution 012608C

by: Carmen Duran Dodson (Atlanta)

A RESOLUTION ON IMMIGRATION

Recognizing the great value of continued immigration into the State of Georgia.

WHEREAS, the State of Georgia has benefited greatly from immigrants who seek to make the United States and Georgia their home; and

WHEREAS, the positive family values of immigrants have created better neighborhoods, better communities, better cities, better counties, and a better Georgia; and

WHEREAS, the hard work and financial contributions of immigrants have created a healthier life for immigrants as well as native-born Americans; and

WHEREAS, immigration into the United States and the State of Georgia is one of the strong foundations that has made our nation and our state great; and

WHEREAS, the continued presence and contributions of immigrants is vital to our economic security at multiple levels throughout our society, both in Georgia and the United States; and

WHEREAS, the diversity of immigrants in Georgia only strengthens our state and provides for a better quality of life for us all.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Georgia Latino Forum supports whatever measures may be necessary to alleviate the unprecedented delays in processing Naturalization applications so that the 1.4 million immigrants who filed for U.S. citizenship status by the end of July 2007—and the thousands more whose cases were already pending but delayed by six months and even years before that—can fully enjoy the rights and benefits that citizenship brings, including the right to vote in the November 2008 presidential election, and the benefit of obtaining immigration status for their spouses, children, and parents.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Georgia Latino Forum supports the United States Congress in continuing its efforts to hold the United States Citizen and Immigration Services (USCIS) accountable for providing prompt and efficient customer service and to require this important federal agency to implement a higher level of best practices and operational planning in response to reasonably foreseeable circumstances and agency changes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Georgia Latino Forum urges the United States Congress and the President of the United States to properly allocate the financial resources and institutional support necessary so that the Department of Homeland Security and USCIS may implement more effective and efficient operations in the future, such as the ability to upgrade its technology and hire sufficient staff to deal with foreseeable spikes in business. Adequate allocation of resources is essential to our federal government's ability to provide services that are in the public's best interest.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Georgia Latino Forum recognizes the wealth of data from recent government, university and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) studies and public policy reports that make it clear that undocumented immigrants, and immigrants in general, are net contributors to the public treasuries and economies of many states and localities in the United States.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Georgia Latino Forum urges the United States Congress and the President of the United States to show greater dedication to our national welfare by exercising the leadership, courage, and determination to act soon to implement comprehensive immigration reform. By taking a broader, long-term view of what constitutes our nation's welfare, our national leaders must take bold steps not only to protect us from the threat of terrorism and crime, but also to advance our economic prosperity and strengthen our democratic heritage. By recognizing the great value of continued immigration into the United States, our national leaders must provide more legal means for immigrants to come here and help us meet our country's needs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Georgia Latino Forum urges our State leaders, including the Governor, Senate, and House of Representatives, to be open-minded, reasonable, and wise in acting in the best interests of all our State's residents.

_____ Adopted, Saturday, January 26, 2008

Sharon Maloney, Chair, Georgia Latino Forum