

74732 Com. Jendrasiak, supported by Com. Tormala, moved to suspend the rules in order to consider the following resolution.

Carried: Yeas: -6 Nays: -0

Com. Tormala, supported by Com. Schmidt, moved adoption of the following resolution:

WHEREAS, The U.S. House of Representatives has already approved H.R. 4437, The Border Protection, Antiterrorism, and Illegal Immigration Control Act of 2005; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Senate has a companion bill to H.R. 4437 that will come before that chamber soon; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 4437 makes any unlawful presence in the United States for any reason a felony offense, but does not include a path to legal residency; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 4437 will separate American families through excessive imprisonment and deportation authority; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 4437 would make all undocumented immigrants in the United States, into "aggravated felons," meaning that the undocumented population, including 1.6 million children, will be subject to long prison sentences, overcrowded courts and prisons, and

WHEREAS, H.R. 4437 will permanently bar approximately 11 million people from obtaining residency or legalizing their status in any way; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 4437 ignores the economic reality that there are hardworking persons from the immigration population in the United States that have been here for years doing essential work and are often paid extremely low wages; and


WHEREAS, H.R. 4437 does nothing to improve the lives of immigrants that reside in the United States, and will only do irrevocable harm to the immigrant population through arrests, imprisonment, ripping many families apart; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 4437 has dire consequences for all US citizens including but not limited to social service organizations, refugee agencies and churches, since it forbids anyone from helping any undocumented person in any way, knowingly or unknowingly, making it criminal to carry out normal activities such as saving a life, getting married or stopping to help someone fix a flat tire;

NOW BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Grand Rapids City Commission opposes H.R. 4437 and any legislation that would criminalize, permanently bar or otherwise harm the immigrant community.

Adopted: Yeas: -6 Nays: -0

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true transcript of the action of the City Commission of the City of Grand Rapids, Michigan, in public session held February 21, 2006.


Mary Therese Hegarty, City Clerk