

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 06-0170R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmembers Kraft, Holton, President Dixon, Councilmembers Young,
Harris, Curran, Spector, Welch, Reisinger, Mitchell, Branch
Introduced and adopted: April 24, 2006

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING

A Resolution Supporting Passage of Comprehensive Immigration Reform and Opposing Enforcement-Only Immigration Legislation

FOR the purpose of supporting comprehensive immigration reform that would correct the failings of our immigration system by assisting the undocumented families living in our country and contributing to our economy, enabling employers to legally hire needed immigrant workers, protecting all workers regardless of immigration status, from mistreatment by employers thereby encouraging worker organization, facilitating family reunification, and restoring civil rights and civil liberties to all.

WHEREAS, We believe in the dignity of all Baltimore City residents, regardless of immigration status, and recognize the importance of their many contributions to the social, religious, cultural, and economic life of the City; and

WHEREAS, Hispanic, Latino and African populations are growing at a steady rate making immigration reform of crucial importance to this City; and

WHEREAS, The City of Baltimore and other local jurisdictions have a major stake in just and fair comprehensive immigration reform at the federal level; and

WHEREAS, The United States urgently needs legislation to correct the failings of our immigration system, to recognize the crucial contributions immigrants make to our nation, to enable employers to legally hire needed immigrant workers, to protect all workers regardless of immigration status from mistreatment by employers, to facilitate family reunification and to restore civil rights and civil liberties to all; and

WHEREAS, Comprehensive immigration reform would restore the rule of law, enhance the security of the United States, and reflect the core values of the nation, including fairness, equality of opportunity, and individual justice, while resulting in realistic, enforceable laws; and

WHEREAS, Comprehensive immigration reform would help build healthy families and communities in our City by bringing immigrants out of the shadows; and

WHEREAS, Comprehensive immigration reform would remove barriers that make is difficult for immigrants to access vital local services and to actively participate in civic activities; and

WHEREAS, Comprehensive immigration reform would give undocumented immigrants who have been living and working in the City of Baltimore a path to permanent legal status and citizenship; and

EXPLANATION: Underlining indicates matter added by amendment.
~~Strike out~~ indicates matter deleted by amendment.

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1 **WHEREAS**, Comprehensive immigration reform would extend civil rights and equal
2 protection to all workers in the United States, and more specifically, the City of Baltimore,
3 regardless of immigration status; and

4 **WHEREAS**, Comprehensive immigration reform would respect the civil rights and civil
5 liberties of all individuals who reside in our City and nation at a time when our country seeks
6 greater national security; and

7 **WHEREAS**, Comprehensive immigration reform would help eliminate the tremendous
8 backlog in family immigration in order to effectively reunite families in both Baltimore City and
9 nationwide and would create legal and orderly processes for people who want to come to the
10 United States to work; and

11 **WHEREAS**, Comprehensive immigration reform would support our City’s commitment to the
12 full integration of newcomers by providing immigrants with quality English instruction, the tools
13 necessary for meaningful citizenship, and opportunities to move up the economic ladder; and

14 **WHEREAS**, Punitive legislation that is not comprehensive and targets immigrants could have
15 severe local consequences, including the division of families in our city; the criminalization of
16 socially beneficial work being performed by local agencies, churches and businesses that work
17 with undocumented workers as well as undocumented workers themselves; the elimination of
18 judicial review and due process for valued city residents; and the undermining of trust between
19 City residents and their government.

20 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE**, That this
21 Body supports comprehensive immigration reform that would correct the failings of our
22 immigration system by assisting the undocumented families living in our country and
23 contributing to our economy, enabling employers to legally hire needed immigrant workers,
24 protecting all workers regardless of immigration status, from mistreatment by employers thereby
25 encouraging worker organization, facilitating family reunification, and restoring civil rights and
26 civil liberties to all.

27 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the City of Baltimore opposes the Border Protection,
28 Antiterrorism and Illegal Immigration Act, H.R. 4437, and other similar legislation that focuses
29 entirely on enforcement by, inter alia, criminalizing undocumented men, women, and children as
30 well as the non-profits and religious institutions that provide them with basic social services,
31 while providing no path to legalization.

32 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Honorable
33 President George W. Bush and the Members of the Maryland Congressional Delegation.