

Substitute Resolution

CHICAGO CITY COUNCIL COMMITS TO THE NATIONAL FIGHT FOR PAROLE FOR THE 11 MILLION

WHEREAS, the migrant crisis at the US/Mexico border has proven that President Biden has the authority to expand parole and issue work permits in the interest of public safety and family unity.

WHEREAS; undocumented essential workers were on the front lines and died at higher rates than any other group during the pandemic and have yet to receive respect for their sacrifice.

WHEREAS; 2 million undocumented were deported for the crime of working or driving while undocumented.

WHEREAS; thousands of green card veterans, many with disabilities and severe PTSD from war have been deported and live in exile and poverty with no legal process to return for their sacrifice.

WHEREAS; There are 5 Illinois deported green card war veterans living in exile that are asking for assistance in obtaining pardons from Governor Pritzker and or Private Bill from Senator Tammy Duckworth and presidential pardons to return home

WHEREAS; The 11 million undocumented workers and the thousands of deported U.S. green card veterans have families here in the U.S.

WHEREAS, The rule in effect as of October 31, 2022. Due to the ongoing court case, USCIS continues to process DACA renewals under the new rule but cannot process first-time applications leaving millions of youth in the shadows.

WHEREAS; it is unrealistic that a bipartisan immigration reform bill will be approved with the current divisive congressional climate.

WHEREAS; Amid a protracted stalemate in Congress over immigration, President Biden has opened a back door to allow hundreds of thousands of new immigrants into the country, significantly expanding the use of humanitarian parole programs for people escaping war and political turmoil around the world.

WHEREAS; The Biden immigration measures, introduced over the past year to offer refuge to people fleeing Ukraine, Haiti, and Latin America, offering immigrants the opportunity to fly to

the United States and quickly secure work authorization, provided they have a private sponsor to take responsibility for them.

WHEREAS; as of mid-April, some 300,000 Ukrainians had arrived in the United States under various programs — a number greater than all the people from around the world admitted through the official U.S. refugee program in the last five years.

Whereas; By the end of 2023, about 360,000 Venezuelans, Cubans, Nicaraguans and Haitians are expected to gain admission through a similar private sponsorship initiative introduced in January to stem unauthorized crossings at the southern border — more people were allowed in legally than were issued immigrant visas from these countries in the last 15 years combined.

WHEREAS; hundreds of millions of government dollars and privately raised millions are earmarked to assist refugees, to navigate their legal entry and parole status, for we are one family.

WHEREAS: On the other hand, our families that have lived worked paid taxes for decades right here in the U.S.A., and were promised legalization almost 2 decades ago, continue a life in the shadows with no legal process in sight.

WHEREAS; President Biden has proved that a process of legalization is possible without an act of Congress through Parole in place.

WHEREAS, the current exclusion of long-term immigrants, many of whom have been here for decades and have US citizen children and spouses, from these protections is inconsistent with the consensus of the people of the United States, who overwhelmingly support immigrants, value their immense contributions to our country, and support family unity.

WHEREAS, On July 21, 2023, Congressman Jesus “Chuy” García along with 38 other members of Congress, many of whom are members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, issued a letter to President Biden urging him to expand parole and work permits to both new migrants and long-term contributing immigrant workers including DACA-eligible, farm workers and essential workers.

Be it Resolved that the Chicago City Council and Mayor Brandon Johnson demand that President Biden keep his promise by immediately offering those same programs of parole and grant parole in place to the 11 million living and working for decades here in the U.S.A. and the return of the millions deported and reunite them with their families here in the U.S. until Congress has the will and the votes for true immigration reform by Congress.

Be it further Resolved that the Chicago City Council approve this resolution in the October 2023 city council assembly and commit to deliver it in person by a delegation of Council members to Washington, D.C. with affected families to make this demand directly to President Biden to free the 11 million from the shadows, reunite 2 million families, and bring our green card deported veterans home.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JF', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Jessie Fuentes,
Aldersperson, 26th Ward