

CITY OF SEATTLE

RESOLUTION 32005

A RESOLUTION urging the United States Congress to enact legislation creating a roadmap to citizenship and other legislative priorities to support immigrants and refugees.

WHEREAS, it has been nearly three decades since the United States Congress took meaningful action on passing critically needed reforms to our nation's immigration system, resulting in needless pain and suffering to millions of families who deal with the effects of a broken system and to the country as a whole; and

WHEREAS, The City of Seattle adopted Resolution 30851 in 2006, Resolution 31193 in 2010, Resolution 31490 in 2013, and Resolution 31890 in 2019 supporting Federal Comprehensive Immigration Reform and fostering family unity with a pathway to citizenship for the undocumented; and

WHEREAS, The City of Seattle adopted Resolution 31779 in 2017 supporting the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program and denouncing harmful federal policies and hateful rhetoric against immigrant communities; and

WHEREAS, The City of Seattle adopted Resolution 31730 in 2017 affirming itself as a Welcoming City that promotes programs and policies that include all, regardless of immigration status; and

WHEREAS, according to the Washington Office of Financial Management, in 2017 one in seven people living in Washington State was an immigrant, of which 48 percent were naturalized citizens, 27 percent were legal immigrants, and 25 percent were undocumented immigrants; and

1 WHEREAS, according to the American Community Survey, in 2019, 19 percent of Seattle
2 residents were foreign-born, including approximately 56,311 residents who were not
3 citizens; and

4 WHEREAS, according to the Center for Migration Studies, the City of Seattle is home to an
5 estimated 22,240 people who are eligible to naturalize; and

6 WHEREAS, The City of Seattle values its ethnic, racial, linguistic, and socio-economic
7 diversity, which is a source of strength in Seattle and beyond, and the City Council is
8 committed to ensuring that all our residents can live and pursue their livelihoods in peace
9 and prosperity; and

10 WHEREAS, according to the New American Economy, a non-partisan research organization,
11 20,434 DACA-eligible immigrants contributed an estimated \$52.1 million to Washington
12 State and \$55 million to Washington municipalities in 2017; and

13 WHEREAS, in the absence of a permanent legislative fix, these residents who are playing an
14 integral role in our communities are now carrying the burden of an uncertain future,
15 which could mean losing their ability to work lawfully, being separated from their loved
16 ones, and ultimately being deported from the communities where they have families and
17 deep roots; and

18 WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization announced that COVID-19 is
19 officially a global pandemic; and

20 WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a national state of
21 emergency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

22 WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic and related economic and unemployment emergencies are
23 deeply impacting the lives of people throughout Seattle and the region and

1 disproportionately harming Black, Indigenous, Latinx, and other communities of color,
2 immigrants and refugees, the LGBTQIA community, disabled community members, and
3 women, who already struggle against entrenched inequity; and

4 WHEREAS, the immediate economic impacts from the COVID-19 emergency have been drastic
5 and are expected to last much longer than the civil emergency itself; NOW,

6 THEREFORE,

7 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE, THE**
8 **MAYOR CONCURRING, THAT:**

9 Section 1. The City of Seattle urges Congress to support legislation and a budget strategy
10 that will:

11 A. Create a roadmap to citizenship for 11 million undocumented immigrants without
12 burdensome requirements that disadvantage immigrants based on English proficiency, income,
13 religious belief, race, ethnicity, gender, and sexual identity;

14 B. Protect the principle of unifying families in the family visa program and increase the
15 number of visas available;

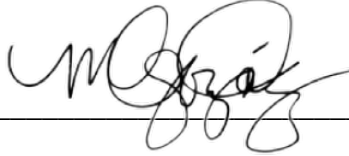
16 C. Work towards ending harmful immigration detention and enforcement programs and
17 institute a nationwide moratorium on deportations, detention, and punitive enforcement until
18 system reform is implemented;

19 D. Restore the United States of America's standing in the world by improving our
20 refugee and asylum systems and increasing admissions; and

21 E. Ensure all COVID-19 relief and recovery programs are available and accessible to all,
22 without discrimination or barriers based on citizenship, English proficiency, income, religious
23 belief, race, ethnicity, gender, and sexual identity.

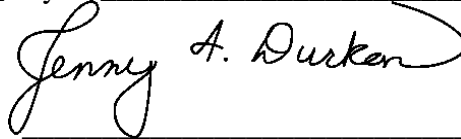
1 Section 2. The City of Seattle urges Congress to use any and all tools at its disposal,
2 including budget reconciliation, to achieve these long-overdue reforms as quickly as possible.

1 Adopted by the City Council the 3rd day of May, 2021,
2 and signed by me in open session in authentication of its adoption this 3rd day of
3 May, 2021.

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5 President _____ of the City Council

6 The Mayor concurred the 7th day of May, 2021.

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8 Jenny A. Durkan, Mayor

9 Filed by me this 7th day of May, 2021.

10 

11 Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk

12 (Seal)