RESOLUTION FOR A CALL TO COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

Submitted to the DC Democratic State Committee by Franklin Garcia and Oralia Puente, DC Democratic Latino Caucus October 1, 2009

WHEREAS, immigrants and their children comprise nearly one-fifth of Washington's population and live and work in all 8 Wards; and

WHEREAS, immigrants are a vibrant, productive, and vital part of Washington DC's growing economy and diverse cultural fabric; and

WHEREAS, the integration of immigrants into our city through a comprehensive approach to solve immigration problems is critical to strengthen and maintain our economy; and

WHEREAS, comprehensive immigration reform would help build healthy families and communities in our city by bringing immigrants out of the shadows so they can participate in the civic life of our city; 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, and 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 our nation, including fairness, equality of opportunity, and individual justice, through the operation of realistic, enforceable laws;

BE IT RESOLVED that the District of Columbia Democratic State Committee calls upon the Council of the District of Columbia and upon the Mayor to do all that is necessary to call for immigration reform with all deliberate speed;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that with the concurrence of the Council and the Mayor a statement of support to comprehensive immigration reform be issued in support for federal legislation which reforms our immigration system, including: Improving the economic situation of all workers in the United States; finding a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants working and living in the United States; reforming visa programs to keep families together; protecting workers' rights; ensuring that future immigration is regulated and controlled; implementing smart, effective enforcement measures targeted at the worst violators of immigration and labor laws; integrating immigrants into our communities; and respecting the due process rights of all in the United States.