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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 03/05/09
LAST UPDATED 03/19/09 **HB** _____

SPONSOR Ortiz y Pino

SHORT TITLE No Immigration Reform Anti-Hispanic Bias **SJM** 44/aSPAC

ANALYST Weber

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY09	FY10		
	NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Senate Public Affairs Committee Amendment to Senate Joint Memorial 44

1. On page 4, between lines 7 and 8, insert the following:

"WHEREAS, children from immigrant families are often unfairly criticized and even attacked and can be targeted for abuse based on the perceived acts of their parents or others, even though they are innocents and the attacks on them are unjustified and unwarranted; and".

Synopsis of Senate Joint Memorial 44

Security precautions are necessary to protect the integrity of the United States' borders and the well-being of the American people. The United States has every right as a sovereign nation to control its border and immigration policies. Immigration policy should also promote and protect the civil and human rights of immigrants and their families and the economic security of the United States.

The United States was founded and has flourished as a nation of immigrants, as President John F. Kennedy emphasized when he wrote, "Everywhere, immigrants have enriched and strengthened the fabric of American life", and "Every aspect of the American economy has profited from the contributions of immigrants".

As a border state with Mexico, New Mexico is proud of its rich cultural traditions, largely based on Hispanic immigrants who have contributed immensely to the history of New Mexico and the accomplishments of its inhabitants at all levels of society and in all fields of endeavor. The New Mexico legislature has a strong history of supporting anti-discrimination policies in the state. In response to the alleged threat that undocumented persons pose to American society, vigilante groups have formed, primarily in neighboring states, to conduct their own unauthorized patrols along the United States-Mexico border, and they use anti-immigrant and xenophobic rhetoric to exploit mainstream fears of unchecked immigration and promote a message of intolerance of immigrants from Mexico, Central America and South America and of undocumented persons and Hispanics in general. A safe and secure border cannot be achieved through civilian vigilantism. Members of hate groups, such as neo-Nazi and white supremacist groups, have expressed support for civilian patrol and anti-immigration groups through participation in patrols, protests and rallies and have used virulent anti-immigrant and anti-Hispanic rhetoric.

The current chaotic system whereby immigrants embark on a dangerous journey to attempt to cross America's southern border fosters an environment in which smugglers and human traffickers flourish and in which extremist groups foment anti-immigrant bigotry. Coordinated efforts by federal, state and local law enforcement officials are necessary to monitor the activities of civilian border patrols and extremist groups in order to maintain safety and public order and to protect and promote human and civil rights. John F. Kennedy wrote, "Immigration policy should be generous; it should be fair; it should be flexible". Effective comprehensive immigration reform should include border security technology and screening enhancements, improved databases, more extensive international coordination and more effective tracking of visas for persons permitted to enter the United States temporarily. Immigration administration policies should recognize that basic human and civil rights of all people are deserving of respect and all immigration proceedings should meet high standards for compliance with the rule of law in all processes that relate to deportation, detention and immigration status. United States policy has historically made it a priority for immigrant families to remain together, but current backlogs in processing legitimate requests have kept families separated for many years and, in some cases, have split families apart. The United States economy and numerous responsible and well-intentioned employers depend on immigrant workers to fulfill what would otherwise be critically unmet needs, and a properly administered temporary or guest worker program can promote and protect the economic security of the United States. The concerns expressed in this memorial have been promoted by the anti-defamation league in a document entitled the "Declaration of Los Angeles", which has been endorsed by many groups, including the National Council of la Raza, the League of United Latin American Citizens and the Mexican American Legal Defense and education fund, and approved by the state of California in its Assembly Joint Resolution No. 16.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that

- anti-Hispanic bias and actions in immigration matters be hereby denounced; and
- that extremist groups that advocate bigotry or racism, armed citizen response or vigilantism in any form subvert the democratic process and fundamental values of the United States
- that the legislature be requested to call upon the federal government to enact comprehensive and effective immigration reforms that:
 - A. protect and provide for a safe and secure United States;

- B. recognize the basic human rights of all persons, including immigrants and undocumented persons, and hold to the highest standards of human rights and dignity all law enforcement and judicial processes that relate to deportation, detention and immigration status; and
- C. provide for a fair and effective temporary or guest worker program that protects and enhances the economic security of the United States; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to all members of the New Mexico congressional delegation, to the speaker of the United States House of Representatives, to the majority leader of the United States Senate and to the President of the United States.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Note: major assumptions underlying fiscal impact should be documented.

Note: if additional operating budget impact is estimated, assumptions and calculations should be reported in this section.

MW/mt