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RESOLUTION NO. R06-10 CMS

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING HOUSE RESOLUTION 4437, WHICH WOULD MAKE FELONS OF 11 MILLION UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS, CRIMINALIZE CONTACT WITH UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS AND FRUSTRATE THE DREAMS OF LEGAL IMMIGRANTS SEEKING CITIZENSHIP AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, on December 16, 2005, the U.S. House of Representatives approved the Border Protection, Antiterrorism and Illegal Immigration Act. H.R. 4437, also known as the Sensenbrenner-King Bill; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 4437 criminalized the mere presence of an alien without valid immigration status, thereby causing 11 million undocumented immigrants currently living and working in the U.S. to be guilty of a federal felony; and

WHEREAS, the Bill's broad definition of "smuggling" allows the federal government to prosecute almost any American having casual contact with an undocumented immigrant; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 4437 could potentially make criminals out of church groups providing food, shelter or other assistance to undocumented immigrants, social workers assisting undocumented workers who are victims of domestic abuse, co-workers giving an undocumented immigrant a ride to work, and a U.S. citizen living with a spouse who is an undocumented immigrant; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 4437 eliminates judicial oversight of delays in the naturalization process and allows the federal government to use subjective and secretive information to bar legal immigrants from becoming U.S. citizens.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Oberlin, County of Lorain, State of Ohio, five-sevenths (5/7ths) of all members elected thereto concurring:

SECTION 1. The City of Oberlin hereby opposes House Resolution 4437, which would make felons of 11 million undocumented immigrants, criminalize contact with undocumented immigrants and frustrate the dreams of legal immigrants seeking citizenship.

SECTION 2. That the Clerk of Council be, and hereby is, instructed to transmit a copy of this Resolution to U.S. Senators Michael DeWine and George Voinovich.

SECTION 3. That it is hereby found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning or relating to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Council and that all deliberations of this Council and any of its committees that resulted in such formal actions were in

meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

SECTION 4. That this Resolution is hereby declared an emergency measure necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety of the citizens of the City of Oberlin, Ohio, or to provide for the usual daily operation of the municipality, to wit:

"to express the opposition of Oberlin City Council to H.R. 4437 in a timely manner",

and shall take effect immediately upon passage.

PASSED: 1st Reading – April 3, 2006 (E)
2nd Reading –
3rd Reading -

ATTEST:



CLERK OF COUNCIL



PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

POSTED: April 4, 2006

EFFECTIVE DATE: April 4, 2006



04-24-06A11:56 RCVD

BOB TAFT
GOVERNOR
STATE OF OHIO

April 17, 2006


Mr. Eugene Simon, Clerk
The City of Oberlin
85 South Main Street
Oberlin, OH 44074

Dear Clerk Simon:

This will confirm receipt by the Governor's Office of Resolution # R06- 10 passed by the Oberlin City Council on Monday, April 3, 2006 regarding H.R. 4437.

Expression of your views on this important matter is appreciated and duly noted.

Sincerely,


Anthony Brigano
Director of Public Inquiries

ADB/kar



Senate vote sidetracks immigration legislation

Failure of compromise bill may doom efforts to pass legislation this year

The Associated Press

Updated: 1:12 p.m. ET April 7, 2006

WASHINGTON - The Senate sidetracked sweeping immigration legislation Friday amid partisan recriminations, leaving in doubt prospects for passage of a measure that offered the hope of citizenship to millions of men, women and children living in the United States illegally.

The bill gained only 38 votes on a key procedural test, far short of the 60 needed to advance.

The vote marked a turnabout from Thursday, when the Senate's two leaders had both hailed a last-minute compromise as a breakthrough in the campaign to enact the most far-reaching changes in immigration law in two decades.

But Republicans soon accused Democrats of trying to squelch their amendments, while Democrats accused the GOP of trying to kill their own bill by filibuster.

"It's not gone forward because there's a political advantage for Democrats not to have an immigration bill," said Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Arlen Specter, R-Pa.

Senate Democratic Leader Harry Reid countered, "The amendments were being offered by people who didn't want the bill."

The vote fell nearly along party lines, with Democrats in favor of advancing the bill and Republicans opposed.

Specter told reporters his committee would resume work on the measure as soon as Congress returns from a two-week break. He said the panel would have a measure ready for renewed debate within 10 days after that.

But Frist stopped short of a commitment to bring the issue back to the floor during the balance of the election-year session. "I intend to," he said, but added it would depend on the schedule of other bills.

No action likely until after recess

The Senate voted after President Bush prodded lawmakers to keep trying to reach an agreement, but both sides said the odds were that a breakthrough won't occur until Congress returns from a two-week recess.

"An immigration system that forces people into the shadows of our society, or leaves them prey to criminals is a system that needs to be changed," Bush said at the National Catholic Prayer Breakfast on Friday. "I'm confident that we can change our immigration system in ways that secures our border, respects the rule of law, and, as importantly, upholds the decency of our country."

Republicans said Democrats perceive a benefit in having only a GOP-written House bill that would make being an illegal immigrant a felony. That bill has prompted massive protests across the country, including a march by 500,000 people in Los Angeles last month.

Democrats blamed Republicans for insisting on amendments that would weaken a compromise that Senate leaders in both parties had celebrated Thursday.

"This opportunity is slipping through our hands like grains of sand," said assistant Senate Democratic

leader Dick Durbin of Illinois.

The election-year legislation is designed to enhance border security and regulate the flow of future temporary workers as well as affect the lives of illegal immigrants.

It separates illegal immigrants now in the U.S. into three categories.

Illegal immigrants here more than five years could work for six years and apply for legal permanent residency without having to leave the country. Those here two years to five years would have to go to border entry points sometime in next three years, but could immediately return as temporary workers. Those here less than two years would have to leave and wait in line for visas to return.

The bill also provides a new program for 1.5 million temporary agriculture industry workers over five years. It includes provisions requiring employers to verify they've hired legal workers and calls for a "virtual" fence of surveillance cameras, sensors and other technology to monitor the nearly 2,000-mile U.S.-Mexican border.

Demonstrations in support of the compromise were planned for Monday across the nation, including one in Washington that organizers claimed would draw 100,000 people.

The acrimony in the Senate at Thursday night's end was a sharp contrast to the accolades 14 members of both parties traded just hours earlier when they announced their compromise.

Frist called it tragic "that we in all likelihood are not going to be able to address a problem that directly affects the American people."

The House has passed legislation limited to border security, but Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., and other leaders have signaled their willingness in recent days to broaden the bill in compromise talks with the Senate.

But Rep. Tom Tancredo, R-Colo., said anything with what he called amnesty would not get agreement from a majority in the House.

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Main Identity

From: "Laura Klingler" <l Klingler@acluohio.org>
To: <esimon@cityofoberlin.com>
Sent: Friday, April 07, 2006 12:36 PM
Subject: Oberlin Immigration Resolution

04-07-06 P01:19 OUT

Dear Eugene,

It is my understanding the Oberlin City Council passed a resolution on Monday opposing HR 4437. The ACLU of Ohio has been doing a lot of organizing work on this issue, and we would be interested in receiving a copy of the Oberlin resolution. An electronic version of the document would be preferred. Please let me know if you can accommodate this request.

You can check out our work on this issue on our website,
http://www.acluohio.org/issues/immigrant_rights/immigrant_rights.htm.

Thank you,
~Laura Klingler

Laura Klingler
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