
HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4015

State of Washington 56th Legislature 1999 Regular Session

By Representatives Lisk, Kenney, Radcliff, McDonald, Wolfe, Haigh, Ogden, Kessler, Santos, Conway, Linville and Lantz

Read first time 03/05/1999. Referred to Committee on .

1 TO THE HONORABLE WILLIAM J. CLINTON, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED
2 STATES, AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
3 OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
4 THE UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED:

5 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of
6 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully
7 represent and petition as follows:

8 WHEREAS, The Anti-Terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996
9 (AEDPA) and the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility
10 Act of 1996 (IIRIRA) represent the most dramatic changes in immigration
11 law in more than 30 years; and

12 WHEREAS, These acts mandate that the Immigration and Naturalization
13 Service (INS) arrest, detain, and deport large segments of the United
14 States immigrant population and the implementation of these laws has
15 had far-reaching effects, including unnecessary financial burdens on
16 the state's legal, social, and welfare systems; and

17 WHEREAS, The United States has long been known as a nation of
18 immigrants, as a champion of human rights for all peoples, and as a
19 country that holds justice and equality under the law among its highest
20 ideals, especially equal justice under law; and

1 WHEREAS, Immigrant detainees may have been legal permanent
2 residents who have lived almost their entire lives in the United
3 States, served in the United States military, have a United States
4 citizen spouse, or have United States citizen children; and

5 WHEREAS, Detainees, including women and children, are frequently in
6 INS custody for periods longer than seventy-two hours and are
7 especially vulnerable within the INS system; and

8 WHEREAS, Families consisting of both legal and illegal family
9 members are often divided causing not only emotional and psychological
10 hardship when mothers are separated from their children, but also
11 financial difficulties resulting in increased welfare rolls when
12 primary wage earners are removed from their jobs;

13 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the
14 President, the Congress, and the appropriate agencies continue to look
15 closely at current immigration law and INS policies and practices, and
16 that necessary changes be made so that problems surrounding immigration
17 may be resolved as soon as possible; and

18 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
19 transmitted to the Honorable William J. Clinton, President of the
20 United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker
21 of the House of Representatives, each member of Congress from the State
22 of Washington, Doris Meissner, Commissioner of the Immigration and
23 Naturalization Service, and Gary Locke, the Governor of the State of
24 Washington.

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