

ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 26

Introduced by Vargas, 7.

Read first time January 27, 2017

Committee: Judiciary

WHEREAS, Latinx Nebraskans are the fastest-growing demographic in Nebraska. Latinx Nebraskans currently make up ten percent of the state's population, and this percentage is projected to double by 2050; and

WHEREAS, in 2006, the Legislature passed LB239, which allowed young immigrants who grew up and were educated in Nebraska and lived in the state for at least three years and who were seeking opportunities in higher education to qualify for instate tuition; and

WHEREAS, in 2012, President Obama implemented Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, commonly referred to as DACA, which allowed young immigrants who entered the United States as children through no choice of their own the opportunity to receive a renewable two-year period of deferred action from deportation and eligibility for a work permit; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, the Legislature passed LB623, which allowed young immigrants who grew up and were educated in Nebraska to obtain drivers' licenses so they could have the opportunity to continue to live and work in Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, the Legislature passed LB947, which allowed young immigrants who grew up and were educated in Nebraska to obtain professional and commercial licenses so they could continue to live and work in Nebraska and contribute more fully to and share equally in the state's prosperity; and

WHEREAS, through these legislative measures, the Legislature has continued to affirm Nebraska's support for DACA youth who have grown up in Nebraska communities and call Nebraska home; and

WHEREAS, through these legislative measures, the Legislature has recognized that DACA youth are important members of Nebraska communities that were brought here as children through no choice of their own; and

WHEREAS, President Trump has stated that he will rescind DACA, which puts the future of DACA youth in Nebraska at risk.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST SESSION:

1. That the Legislature stands by the educational, economic, and community investments that the people of Nebraska have made in these young immigrants and their families.

2. That the Legislature stands opposed to any federal action that would rescind Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals or result in additional restrictions that would act as barriers to the continued contributions of these young immigrants and their families to Nebraska communities and the people of Nebraska.