

Whereas, Our state, for economic, social, health, security, and prosperity reasons, must support policies that allow individuals to become legal and enfranchised participants in our society and economy; and

Whereas, Comprehensive immigration reform should include a reasonable and timely path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants living and working in the United States already. It should include comprehensive background checks, and require demonstrated proficiency in English and payment of all current and back taxes, and should have the flexibility to respond to emerging business trends; and

Whereas, The Migration Policy Institute, a nonpartisan research group in Washington, D.C., estimated that in 2012 the federal government spent \$18 billion on immigration enforcement and that the number of United States Border Patrol agents has doubled since 2004; and

Whereas, Increased enforcement has given the federal government the ability to prioritize the deportation of lawbreakers and dangerous individuals and to ensure our border's security. Nevertheless, this enforcement should not be done in an inhumane way; and

Whereas, Immigration enforcement should continue to focus on criminals, not on hard-working immigrant families, and not at the expense of efficient trade with two of our top three economic partners; and

Whereas, The United States loses large numbers of necessary, highly skilled workers due to the lengthy and complicated processes currently in place to get or keep a legal residency option; and

Whereas, Reform should also include an expedited process for those residing abroad and applying for legal visas. Additionally, reform should offer permanent residency opportunities to international students in American universities who are highly trained and in high demand, and in so doing avoid an intellectual vacuum after their graduation; and

Whereas, This reform should recognize the societal and cultural benefits of keeping the family unit intact. The system should take into account special circumstances surrounding candidates for probationary legal status, such as those of minors brought to the country as children or workers whose labor is essential to maintain our country's competitiveness: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature urges the President and the Congress of the United States to take a comprehensive and workable approach to solving our nation's historically broken immigration system, using the principles described in this resolution; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and the Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.

POM-182. A resolution adopted by the Municipal Legislature of Aguada, Puerto Rico relative to urging the President of the United States of America to immediately and unconditionally release a political prisoner; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

RESOLUTION No. 19

Whereas, Section 5005 of Act No. 81 of August 30, 1991, as amended, known as "Autonomous Municipalities Act of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico", provides that the Municipal Legislature may approve those ordinances, resolutions and regulations on issues and matters of competition or munic-

ipal jurisdiction, pursuant to this Act or any other law, must be submitted for consideration or approval.

Whereas, Oscar Lopez Rivera has been jailed for more than 32 years in the United States, serving a sentence for reasons related to the struggle for the independence of Puerto Rico. Other political prisoners serving sentences equally disproportionate have since been released, first under President Jimmy Carter and then, in 1999, being president, William J. Clinton, Oscar is the political prisoner serving the longest prison sentence, surpassing the Nobel Peace Prize and former South African President Nelson Mandela.

Whereas, A cause for the release of Oscar Lopez has joined Puerto Ricans of all faiths. Political, religious and civic organizations have called for Oscar back home. His prolonged confinement, far from serving any purpose, it has become a sign of inhumanity and injustice. The consensus forged in Puerto Rico for the freedom of Oscar, also have joined international entities.

Whereas, The Municipal Legislature joins Aguada, in turn, in a gesture of solidarity, to request the President of the United States, Barack Hussein Obama, making use of its prerogatives, available for immediate and unconditional release of Oscar Lopez Rivera: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Municipal Legislature of Aguada, Puerto Rico, the following:

Section 1st: Aguada Municipal Legislature requests the President of the United States of America, Barack Hussein Obama, who in the exercise of its powers granted immediate and unconditional freedom of Oscar Lopez Rivera.

Section 2nd: Copies of this Resolution, translated into English, will be sent to the President and the Presidents of both legislative bodies of the Congress of the United States.

Section 3rd: This Resolution shall take effect immediately after its approval.

POM-183. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California relative to veterans; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 19

Whereas, In 1993, congress adopted a policy known as Don't Ask, Don't Tell (DADT), prohibiting service personnel from inquiring, or volunteering information, about their sexual orientation. Prior to 1993, federal law and military regulations prohibited homosexuality in the Armed Forces of the United States; and

Whereas, From 1980 until the repeal of DADT in 2011, over 32,000 service personnel were separated from the Armed Forces of the United States under DADT and its predecessor policies; and

Whereas, More than 13,000 service personnel were separated from the Armed Forces of the United States after the adoption of DADT. Approximately one-quarter of these discharges occurred during the service member's first four months of service; and

Whereas, California law prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, national origin, ethnic group identification, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, color, genetic information, or disability; and

Whereas, Generally, veterans separated from the military with a discharge that is characterized as "dishonorable" or "other than honorable" are ineligible to receive federal or state veterans' benefits, including applicable spousal benefits; and

Whereas, Section 711.1 of the Military and Veterans Code assists veterans by requiring the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide Internet resources, Internet links, and

printed materials regarding, or created by, veterans' legal services organizations that specialize in military discharge upgrades, or links to Internet resources that provide information and printed resources provided by veterans' legal services organizations. It also provides that if the federal government acts to provide benefits to discharged veterans who were denied those benefits solely on the basis of sexual orientation pursuant to any federal policy prohibiting homosexual personnel from serving in the Armed Forces of the United States, the state shall provide to those veterans any state-offered benefits; and

Whereas, We must work to ensure that California veterans who were discriminated against solely on the basis of their sexual orientation can access benefits regardless of the classification of their discharge: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature urges Congress and the President to provide benefits, including applicable spousal benefits, to those veterans discriminated against solely on the basis of their sexual orientation; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.

POM-184. A resolution from town of Richmond, Wisconsin relative to amending campaign contribution rules; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

POM-185. A resolution adopted by the Legislature of Rockland County, New York, supporting United States Senate Bill S. 744—The Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act of 2013, and urging the United States House of Representatives to pass similar legislation; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

POM-186. A resolution adopted by the Board of Selectmen, Town of Seymour, Connecticut, urging the Congress of the United States to restore the presumption of a service connection for Agent Orange exposure to United States Veterans who served on the inland waterways, in the territorial waters, and in the airspace over the combat zone; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. HARKIN, from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1562. A bill to reauthorize the Older Americans Act of 1965, and for other purposes.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. CORNYN:

S. 1895. A bill to establish a commission to examine the United States monetary policy, evaluate alternative monetary regimes, and recommend a course for monetary policy going forward; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.