



### **A Resolution: Immigration**

This Resolution supports the premise that immigration strengthens the US economy and is based on a preponderance of evidence from credible studies by reliable sources such as: the International Economic Development Council, Economic Development Research Partners, American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research, the Center for Immigration Studies, the Hamilton Project of the Brookings Institution and the US Chamber of Commerce; which state:

- the U.S. immigration system hinders economic potential of immigration as it lacks needed flexibility to allow employers to hire immigrant in accordance with the demands of the economy, impedes employers who would like to hire foreign workers because the existing system is limited and difficult to use, and thereby obstructs the American economy as a whole;
- immigration contributes to economic development by reinforcing the labor pool with more workers with more diverse backgrounds to provide much more varied skills and education backgrounds, the Center for Global Development indicates that the highest job growth in the US through 2020 is expected in low and moderate skill jobs and that immigration is a tool that can allow the US to replace a rapidly aging population of lesser-skilled workers;
- the living standards of Americans is, on average, improved by immigrants because they raise the overall standard of living of American workers by boosting wages and lowering prices, attributed to immigrants and US-born workers not competing for the same jobs but rather complementing each others' work and increasing productivity, further increasing demand in the economic activity cycle;
- immigrants are an essential component of the STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) workforce and expanding the H-1B temporary worker visa program will benefit employers by enlarging the pool of technical talent that is in such high demand;
- immigrants start new businesses and file patents at higher rates than US-Born citizens, the US Small Business Administration indicates immigrants are 30% more likely to form new businesses than US-born citizens, such investments in new businesses and in research may provide spillover benefits to US-born workers by enhancing job creation and by increasing innovation among their US-born peers;
- immigrants knowledge and experiences in foreign countries can open markets in the global economy, and increase and diversify the customer base for existing businesses;
- undocumented workers also support the economy, as mass deportation would threaten devastating effects on economic development, as the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office estimates that immigration reform could decrease federal budget deficits, increase economic growth, and create over 5 million new jobs;
- immigrants do assimilate into the American economy and immigrants are not a drain on public budgets and do not disproportionately use social services/benefits, in fact, the Social Security Administration estimates that immigration reform could ensure the program's full solvency through 2035 by adding 6.6 million more workers paying Social Security taxes, nearly 10 additional taxpayers for each new beneficiary; likewise, immigrants do not disproportionately burden US correctional facilities and institutions, as the Hamilton Project reports that US born citizens are more than five times more likely than immigrants to be institutionalized;

**THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the York County Economic Alliance supports immigration reform to address the economic factors listed** including

- a legal status for undocumented immigrants,
- increasing H-1B (or Specialty Occupation Visas requiring bachelor's degree or higher) visa quotas to a minimum of 200,000 per year,
- increasing the availability of employment-based immigrant visas for highly-skilled immigrants with advanced degrees and exceptional abilities,
- formalizing guest worker/temporary worker programs to strengthen agricultural and construction business sectors (H2A/H2B visas)
- establishing immigration policy that supports entrepreneurship and capital investment; and

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVED that the York County Economic Alliance Business Advocacy Council directs this Resolution to the attention of the Honorable U.S. Senate and the Honorable U.S. House of Representative and to work for the support thereof;

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVED that the York County Economic Alliance will aid in seeking options to allow immigrants to achieve their economic potential; such as the Welcoming Center for New Pennsylvanians' programs.

Respectfully submitted,

John Klinedinst, Chair, Business Advocacy Council

Approved 9/2013