

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.

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.

WHEREAS, H.R. 4437 criminalizes 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.

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

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 that the Board of County Commissioners of Cuyahoga County, Ohio, 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.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Board be, and she is, hereby instructed to transmit a copy of this resolution to U.S. Senators Michael DeWine and George Voinovich, Cuyahoga County Mayors and City Managers; Veronica I. Dahlberg, Publisher, HOLA Magazine and Dennis Madden, County Administrator.

On Motion of Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Hagan, the foregoing resolution was duly adopted.

Ayes: Jones, Hagan, Dimora.

Nays: None.

Resolution Adopted.

**Penelope M. Hughes,
Clerk of the Board**