

As Introduced

**136th General Assembly
Regular Session
2025-2026**

S. R. No. 447

Senator Blessing

A RESOLUTION

To recognize the contributions of immigrants and refugees
and to urge federal action to address Ohio's workforce
shortages.

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BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

WHEREAS, According to the American Immigration Council, in
2023, immigrants in Ohio contributed \$7.3 billion in combined
federal, state, and local taxes and possessed an estimated \$20
billion in spending power that stimulated local economies and
substantially contributed to the state economy; and

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WHEREAS, Immigrants and refugees continue to play a vital
and indispensable role in Ohio. The Council found that
immigrants represented 5.1% of Ohio's workforce in 2023,
including 7.6% of workers in Ohio's manufacturing sector and
8.2% of Ohio's entrepreneurs, who have generated over one
billion dollars in business income and seven of which have
founded Fortune 500 companies; and

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WHEREAS, Ohio's immigrant population helps to form the
backbone of the state's workforce in key industries by
disproportionately filling roles central to the success of
Ohio's economy. The Council reported that from 2015 to 2019
immigrants made up 23.1% of Ohio's postsecondary teachers, 13.6%
of home health and personal care aides, and 13.1% of nurse
practitioners; and

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WHEREAS, According to a 2024 report by the Council, 42.5% 23
of meat processing jobs and 30.8% of handpacker jobs were filled 24
by immigrants in the Great Lakes region alone; and 25

WHEREAS, The Immigration Research Initiative reported in 26
2024 that 15% of Ohio's main street business owners were 27
immigrants; and 28

WHEREAS, Ohio is currently facing significant labor demand 29
and workforce shortages across a variety of sectors, including 30
healthcare, manufacturing, and agriculture, threatening the 31
ability of Ohio businesses to grow and compete; and 32

WHEREAS, In December 2025, the United States Bureau of 33
Labor Statistics found that 278,000 jobs were unfilled in Ohio; 34
and 35

WHEREAS, World Education Services found that the national 36
worker-to-retiree ratio is projected to drop from 3-to-1 to 2- 37
to-1 in the next few decades, making a responsive immigration 38
system necessary to mitigate labor shortages and maintain 39
economic stability; and 40

WHEREAS, The current federal immigration system, with its 41
long processing backlogs, evolving caps, and lack of alignment 42
with state-level economic needs, is inefficient and hinders the 43
ability of willing workers to fill open jobs in Ohio; and 44

WHEREAS, Federal policies have created unnecessary 45
regulatory burdens, making it harder for foreign-born workers to 46
renew and maintain their permanent status. These bureaucratic 47
delays limit employers' ability to access the skilled talent 48
they need which disrupts Ohio businesses and creates uncertainty 49
in the state's labor market; now therefore be it 50

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the Senate of the 136th 51
General Assembly of the State of Ohio, recognize a need for a 52
federal immigration system that is responsive to the needs of 53

businesses so that they can access talent, mitigate labor 54
shortages, and maintain economic stability; and be it further 55

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the Senate of the 136th 56
General Assembly of the State of Ohio, urge Congress and the 57
Executive Branch of the United States to take the following 58
common sense actions to improve pathways for immigrants to 59
mitigate state-level workforce shortages: 60

Reform existing pathways or create new pathways that lead 61
to permanent status for those already authorized to work in the 62
United States under temporary statuses; 63

Ease the process to obtain, keep, and renew work 64
authorization to ensure that those who are already here legally 65
can work; 66

Expand or utilize existing pathways, such as the U.S. 67
Refugee Admissions Program, to allow people experiencing forced 68
displacement and who are willing to work and integrate into our 69
community to contribute to our economy; 70

Improve or create new pathways, such as state-designated 71
visa programs, for immigrants to obtain permanent work 72
authorization status as a long-term and solutions-oriented 73
approach to help employers recruit global talent to address 74
state-level workforce shortages, particularly in critical fields 75
like healthcare, manufacturing, and agriculture; and be it 76
further 77

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Senate transmit duly 78
authenticated copies of this Resolution to the President of the 79
United States, the Vice President of the United States, the 80
Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the 81
Majority Leader of the United States Senate, and members of the 82
Ohio congressional delegation. 83