

Immigration Reform

We the undersigned call on Gov. Beverly Perdue and the N.C. General Assembly to support comprehensive immigration reform at the federal level and to support state efforts that improve the quality of life for our state's immigrants.

- **Whereas** there are about 350,000 undocumented immigrants, the majority Latino, residing in N.C., and about 12 million nationally, most of whom fled horrible poverty in their native countries, with the hope for a better life here;
- **Whereas** US trade policies under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) have led to increased poverty and unemployment in Latin America;
- **Whereas** current enforcement-only policies, such as raids and deportations cause Latinos to live in fear and have broken up families;
- and **Whereas** the U.S., a nation of immigrants, has a proud history of "welcoming the stranger;"
- **Therefore**, we believe our state has a moral duty to enact policies that are respectful of undocumented immigrants, including access to higher education, the right to drive legally, due process under the law, an end to raids and a path to legalization.

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