

**RESOLUTION BY THE DENVER METRO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Adoption of the Colorado Compact on Immigration

WHEREAS, the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce (“Chamber”) is dedicated to furthering economic vitality and quality of life (“Mission”); and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors (“Board”) of the Chamber is charged with leading the Chamber to achieve this Mission; and

WHEREAS, the Chamber’s interest in engaging in public policy is to advance the business and economic success of Colorado; and

WHEREAS, immigration is an issue that impacts Colorado’s businesses and its economic health; and

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes that immigration is a national issue; and

WHEREAS, the Chamber’s involvement with immigration policy is solely for the purpose of furthering its Mission; and

WHEREAS, the Board acknowledges that the state’s economy depends on having an educated and skilled workforce; and

WHEREAS, the Board acknowledges that, in 2018, sixty-seven percent of jobs in Colorado will require some post-secondary training beyond high school; and

WHEREAS, the Board acknowledges that Colorado has a population of undocumented individuals brought into the United States prior to reaching the age of 16 and who are educated by the Colorado public school system; and

WHEREAS, the Board believes that providing a path for these individuals to earn the ability to help meet Colorado’s needs for a skilled workforce through education or military service would further the Mission; and

WHEREAS, the Board acknowledges that there is a shortage of H-1B visas, which has a negative impact on attracting and retaining highly skilled foreign national professionals and must be addressed to further the Mission; and

WHEREAS, the Board acknowledges that Colorado’s agriculture and recreational industries, including the ski industry, rely on the use of H-2A and H-2B visas, which allow a foreign national entry into the U.S. for temporary or seasonal work; and

WHEREAS, the Board acknowledges that the current H-2A and H-2B visa system fails to meet the changing workforce needs of Colorado’s agricultural and recreational industries, which

increase and decrease along with economic conditions, and creates workforce shortages for these important sectors of Colorado's economy; and

WHEREAS, the Colorado Compact is an effort to convene and promote a responsible conversation on immigration in Colorado that could lead to real and lasting federal reform.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THIS 15TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2012, THAT the Board of Directors of the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce adopt the Colorado Compact attached to this Resolution as Attachment A solely for the purpose of furthering the Chamber's Mission and within the parameters that this limited purpose creates.

SECRETARY'S CERTIFICATE

The undersigned certifies that he is Secretary of Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce, a Colorado non-profit corporation and that, as such, the undersigned is authorized to execute this certificate on behalf of said corporation and further certifies that the foregoing is a complete and correct copy of a presently effective resolution of said corporation.

Dated: November 15, 2012



Cole Finegan, Secretary

ATTACHMENT A

Colorado Compact

WHEREAS the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce recognizes that the growing consequences of a broken immigration system must be addressed in a bi-partisan effort; and

WHEREAS the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce supports efforts to convene and promote a reasonable conversation on immigration in Colorado that could lead to real and lasting federal reform;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce supports the following principles regarding meaningful immigration reform:

- **FEDERAL RESPONSIBILITY**
Immigration policy is a federal issue between the U.S. government and other countries. We urge the Colorado congressional delegation to work to enact immigration policy at the federal level that improves our immigration system, keeps our communities safe, and protects our borders.
- **STRENGTHENING OUR ECONOMY**
Colorado is best served by a free-market philosophy that maximizes individual freedom and opportunity. Our immigration system must be flexible enough to address the needs of businesses while protecting the interests of workers. This includes a visa system that is both responsive and effective at meeting the demands of our economy. It should also acknowledge the beneficial economic contributions immigrants make as workers, taxpayers, and consumers.
- **ENSURING OUR NATIONAL SECURITY**
We believe that maintaining the safety and security of the United States is an utmost priority. Our immigration system must ensure the protection of our communities and national borders.
- **FAMILY**
Strong families are critical to developing successful individuals and cohesive communities. Our immigration policies, where possible, should prioritize keeping close families together in order to ensure the most supportive home environments for all children across our state.
- **EFFECTIVE ENFORCEMENT**
We support a law enforcement strategy that focuses on public safety, targets serious crime, and safeguards witnesses and victims. We further urge a reasonable and predictable regulatory environment that considers the interests of, and unintended consequences to businesses, workers, and consumers. Furthermore, the broader reform

effort should eventually include a way to accurately, reliably, and affordably determine who is permitted to work, ensuring an adequate labor force for a growing economy.

- **A COMMONSENSE APPROACH**

Immigrants are part of our communities across Colorado. We must adopt a commonsense approach to this reality that reflects our values and recognizes the critical role immigration has played in our nation's history and economy. Our immigration policies must provide a sensible path forward for immigrants who are here without legal status, are of good character, pay taxes, and are committed to becoming fully participating members of our society and culture.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce supports efforts that bring together leaders and community members of diverse backgrounds and politics who are committed to fostering a more rational and collaborative approach to immigration policy than exists today; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce respectfully requests the opportunity for member involvement in the development of any legislation directed at addressing immigration reform.