

## House Resolution 912

By: Representatives Marin of the 96<sup>th</sup>, Abrams of the 89<sup>th</sup>, Mitchell of the 88<sup>th</sup>, Fludd of the 64<sup>th</sup>, and Thomas of the 100<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

1 Respectfully requesting that the United States Congress swiftly enact and fund  
2 comprehensive immigration reform that creates a commonsense road map to citizenship for  
3 some 11 million undocumented immigrants, promotes economic growth, and strengthens  
4 national security; and for other purposes.

5 WHEREAS, in an increasingly complex global economy, labor mobility is crucial to the  
6 prosperity of the United States, but our rigid outmoded immigration policies are making it  
7 difficult for the nation to compete; and

8 WHEREAS, the United States Congress last enacted major immigration legislation more  
9 than a quarter-century ago; since that time, piecemeal attempts at reform have failed to create  
10 the kind of rational and effective system we need to maintain competitiveness, whether in  
11 an industry like agriculture, which requires large numbers of workers able to perform  
12 physically demanding tasks, or in technology, where the demand for employees with  
13 advanced degrees in math and science is projected to outstrip supply by 2018; and

14 WHEREAS, immigrants perform vital functions in a variety of industries; and

15 WHEREAS, the United States is now home to some 11 million undocumented immigrants,  
16 including millions of children brought to this country illegally who have grown up here and  
17 know no home other than the United States; a commonsense road map to citizenship for  
18 these residents would stimulate the economy by allowing them to open bank accounts, obtain  
19 college degrees, buy homes, establish new American companies, and create jobs; a recent  
20 study published by the Cato Institute estimated that a complete overhaul of the immigration  
21 system would yield at least \$1.5 trillion in added United States gross domestic product over  
22 ten years; and

23 WHEREAS, a rational overhaul of the immigration system requires a tough, fair, and  
24 practical program to address the status of undocumented immigrants, contingent on success

25 in securing our borders and addressing visa overstays; in order to protect all workers,  
26 whether native or foreign-born, it must include an efficient and transparent employment  
27 verification system that identifies qualified candidates while penalizing employers who  
28 knowingly hire undocumented immigrants; immigration policy must also be designed to  
29 respond to labor needs in science and technology, as well as agriculture; and

30 WHEREAS, recognizing the characteristics that will help build prosperity and strengthen our  
31 society, a commonsense road map to legal status for undocumented immigrants would  
32 encompass a health and criminal background check, proof of a stable United States work  
33 history and current employment, and payment of taxes; to gain probationary legal status,  
34 individuals would be further required to demonstrate knowledge of English and American  
35 civics; fairness demands that the system take into account special circumstances surrounding  
36 candidates for probationary legal status, such as minors brought to the country as children  
37 or agricultural workers whose labor is essential to maintain the food supply; and

38 WHEREAS, national security and our national interests are poorly served by an embattled  
39 immigration system, and patchwork attempts to mend its deficiencies undermine our  
40 potential for prosperity and leave us ill-prepared to meet the challenges of the modern world.

41 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
42 the members of this body request that the United States Congress swiftly enact and fund  
43 comprehensive immigration reform that creates a commonsense road map to citizenship for  
44 some 11 million undocumented immigrants, promotes economic growth, and strengthens  
45 national security.

46 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
47 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the President of the United  
48 States, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the  
49 United States Congress, and to all the members of the Georgia delegation to Congress with  
50 the request that this resolution be entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the  
51 Congress of the United States of America.