



Cecilia Lunaparra

Councilmember, District 7

CONSENT CALENDAR

July 30, 2024

To: Honorable Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Lunaparra (Author), Mayor Arreguin (Co-Sponsor),
Councilmember Hahn (Co-Sponsor)

Subject: Supporting the “Renewing Immigration Provisions of the Immigration Act of 1929 or “Registry Bill” (HR 1511 & SB2606)

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution Supporting the “Renewing Immigration Provisions of the Immigration Act of 1929 or “Registry Bill” (HR 1511 & SB2606) and endorsing the Northern California Coalition for Just Immigration Reform’s “Three-Day Walk for a Path to Citizenship” from San Jose to San Francisco on August 17-19, 2024.¹

BACKGROUND

Berkeley has a history of recognizing the contributions that undocumented immigrants make to our community and protecting the rights of all residents of our city, regardless of legal status or nation of origin. In November 2016, the City of Berkeley reaffirmed its status as a sanctuary city. In January 2020, the City Council voted on a Resolution for a New Border Vision. In partnership with the Southern Border Communities Coalition, this Resolution calls on Congress to implement a new framework that expands public safety and protects human rights in border communities

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

It is estimated that there are over 11 million undocumented residents living in the United States. They are family members, friends, coworkers, neighbors, and valued community members. They pay state and federal taxes, and contribute to Social Security and Medicare, for which they are ineligible. They contribute to the workforce, often as essential workers who disproportionately suffer from exploitation, lack of adequate healthcare, and fear of deportation. On March 9, 2023, U.S. Representatives Zoe Lofgren (CA), Norma Torres (CA), Grace Meng (NY), Lou Correa (CA), Adriano Espaillat (NY), and Jesús "Chuy" García (IL) reintroduced the “**Renewing Immigration Provisions of the Immigration Act of 1929,**” or “**Registry Bill.**” The bill updates the 1929 law so that undocumented individuals may apply for legal permanent residency as long as they have lived in the country for at least seven years.

¹ [facebook.com/groups/httpswww.raizescollective.org](https://www.facebook.com/groups/httpswww.raizescollective.org).

The Northern California Coalition for Just Immigration Reform plans to hold regional community forums on the “Registry Bill,” and 40-mile Walk in August. The Coalition joins other groups at the national level to hold marches on August 8 and participate in a General Work Strike to draw attention to the Registry Bill.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

There are no identifiable environmental effects or opportunities associated with adopting this recommendation.

FISCAL IMPACTS

No General Fund impact.

CONTACT PERSON

Councilmember Cecilia Lunaparra (510) 981-7170

Attachments:

1. Resolution
2. Article on Registry Bill by Renee Saucedo

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

SUPPORT THE “RENEWING IMMIGRATION PROVISIONS OF THE IMMIGRATION ACT OF 1929 OR “REGISTRY BILL” (HR 1511 & SB2606)

WHEREAS, the Peace and Justice Commission advises the City Council on all matters relating to the City of Berkeley’s role in issues of peace and social justice (Berkeley Municipal Code Chapter 3.68.070); and

WHEREAS, on July 1, 2024, the Peace and Justice Commission unanimously passed a resolution entitled “Support the “Renewing Immigration Provisions of the Immigration Act of 1929” or “Registry Bill” (HR 1511 & SB2606);” and

WHEREAS, California has the highest number of migrants in the country;¹ and

WHEREAS, undocumented families continue to suffer greatly due to the lack of opportunities to adjust their legal status. Mothers and fathers are unable to see the children they were forced to leave behind in their home countries. People suffer emotional distress by not seeing their elderly parents before they die. They continue to suffer exploitation at work and remain vulnerable if they complain about work conditions. And they suffer a constant fear that law enforcement will discover them and deport them, forcibly separating them from family and loved ones living with them here; and

WHEREAS, for nearly 40 years Congress has failed to update our immigration laws, leaving millions of people to live in fear and unable to become full Americans, and

WHEREAS, in 2020, California Congressional leaders Zoe Lofgren (D-Santa Clara) and Senator Alex Padilla (D-Los Angeles) introduced the “Renewing Immigration Provisions of the Immigration Act of 1929,” (HR 1511 & SB 2606), or “Registry Bill,”² which allows undocumented people living continuously in the US for at least 7 years to apply for legal permanent residency.³ It is estimated that approximately 8 million undocumented people may benefit from the passage of this law;⁴ and

¹ “Immigrants in California,” Public Policy Institute of California; January 2024; Mejia, Perez & Johnson, ppic.org/publication/immigrants-in-california/.

² H.R.1511 - Renewing Immigration Provisions of the Immigration Act of 1929, [congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/1511](https://www.congress.gov/bills/118th/congress/house-bill/1511).

³ “Restoring Immigration Registry: Priority Bill Spotlight: Renewing Immigration Provisions of the Immigration Act of 1929,” FWD.us, March 9, 2023, <https://www.fwd.us/news/immigration-registry-bill/>

⁴ “America’s outdated immigration system is hurting countless people and holding back our country and our economy,” said Senator Padilla. “My bill would update the Registry cutoff date for the first time in more than 37 years so that more immigrants are eligible to apply for permanent resident status. This would have a profound impact on millions of immigrants, some of whom have been living, working, and contributing to the United States for decades, by allowing them to live freely without the fear of an uncertain future.” padilla.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/padilla-introduces-legislation-to-broaden-lawful-pathway-to-citizenship.

WHEREAS, the Registry Bill is a simple, practical solution that prioritizes permanent solutions for immigrants, addresses those already here without an immigration status, those with only temporary protections like TPS, and those with DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals); and

WHEREAS, it is time for Congress to act to update the immigration registry by passing H.R. 1511 and S.2606, to ensure hardworking immigrants can live with dignity, have the freedom to travel, and contribute to our economy. Giving immigrants the ability to obtain a green card through a registry update would bring \$121 billion to the U.S economy annually and \$35 billion in taxes,⁵ and

WHEREAS, “Registry” means a path to citizenship for millions of undocumented Americans. It means having the ability to reunite with their families, the hope for a brighter future, the opportunity to find a better job, and thrive; and

WHEREAS, immigrant communities continue to passionately organize around a legalization bill, despite the betrayals by politicians and the continued, anti-immigrant sentiment; and

WHEREAS, many immigrant rights organizations in our region participate in the national Campaign for Citizenship Through Registry as part of the Northern California Coalition for Just Immigration Reform.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the Council call on Congress to pass the Registry Bill as soon as possible.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council ask the Clerk to send this resolution to our Congressional representatives.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Berkeley supports and endorses the Northern California Coalition for Just Immigration Reform’s “Three-Day Walk for a Path to Citizenship” from San Jose to San Francisco on August 17-19, 2024.⁶

⁵ fwd.us.

⁶ [facebook.com/groups/httpswww.raizescollective.org](https://www.facebook.com/groups/httpswww.raizescollective.org).

Registry Bill HR1511 Article + translation

JUSTICE COMING FOR UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS

By Renee Saucedo

On March 9, 2023, U.S. Representatives Zoe Lofgren (CA), Norma Torres (CA), Grace Meng (NY), Lou Correa (CA), Adriano Espaillat (NY), and Jesús "Chuy" García (IL) reintroduced the **“Renewing Immigration Provisions of the Immigration Act of 1929,”** Or **“Registry Bill.”** The bill, kept the same as last year’s Registry Bill, updates the 1929 law so that undocumented individuals may apply for legal permanent residency as long as they have lived in the country for at least seven years.

The registry, a provision of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), [has existed for nearly a century](#). It was first implemented by the [Registry Act of 1929](#) and permitted immigrants who had been continuously present in the United States since June 3, 1921, were of “good moral character,” and were not otherwise deportable, to apply for permanent resident status. Since then, the cutoff date for the registry has been updated only [four times](#), usually as part of comprehensive immigration reforms, but has not been updated since the Reagan era. The statute has also been modified in other ways.

Today, immigrant communities are pushing for the registry process to be updated by establishing a seven years presence eligibility in order to apply for a green card. Under the new bill, the 1929 Immigration Act would also incorporate a rolling component so that future legislation would not be required to update the registry, and undocumented people can apply after living in the U.S. for seven years.

It is estimated that approximately eight million of the approximately eleven million undocumented people in the U.S. will benefit under this new update of current law.

Nationally, the immigrant rights movement is divided on whether or not to prioritize continuing to push for “Immigration Reform” this year, in view of the Republican-dominated Congress. However, many immigrant rights organizations, especially those which have grassroots constituencies, believe that we must continue to organize around passage of just legalization policies. While legislation like the Registry Bill may not pass this year, it is important to continue to build community participation in the campaign, and to create the political climate needed to push forward pro-undocumented legislation. Immigrant communities continue to organize, not to achieve a fast win, but rather, to continue to build support for a just law which will offer an ongoing path to citizenship, a permanent solution to the current injustice.

Currently, the national campaign “Unlock Permanent Residence Through Registry,” based with the Coalition For Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles (CHIRLA), is taking the lead coordinating the national campaign around the Registry Bill. Here in Sonoma County, organizations like ALMAS Libres/Raizes Collective and the North Bay Organizing Project (NBOP) are leading the Northern California Coalition For Just Immigration Reform, which involves organizations and unions in Sonoma, San Francisco, Humboldt, and the East Bay. Our local

Coalition collaborates with CHIRLA, as well as other coalitions around the country, such as the Dignity Campaign and United 4 Immigration Reform.

The Northern California Coalition plans to hold regional community forums on the “Registry Bill,” and 40-mile Walk in August. We’ll join groups at a national level to hold marches on August 8 and participate in a General Work Strike on August 9.

Why do immigrant communities continue to passionately organize around a legalization bill, despite the betrayals by the Democrats and the continued, anti-immigrant sentiment? Undocumented immigrants explain their involvement and sacrifice the best. They and their families continue to greatly suffer due to the lack of opportunities to adjust their legal status. Mothers and fathers are unable to see the children they were forced to leave behind in their home countries. People suffer emotional distress by not seeing their elderly parents before they die. They continue to suffer exploitation at work and remain vulnerable if they complain about work conditions. And they suffer a constant fear that law enforcement will discover them and deport them, forcibly separating them from family and loved ones living with them here.

Last year, Congress had various legislative options at the table including the Renewing Immigration Provisions of the Immigration Act of 1929 (introduced in both chambers), the Dream and Promise Act (passed out of the House), Dream Act (introduced in the Senate) Farm Workforce Modernization Act (passed out of the House), Citizenship for Essential Workers (introduced in both chambers) and the US Citizenship Act (introduced in both chambers). Immigrant communities overwhelmingly supported the bill related to the changing of the registry date, because it doesn’t include harmful policies like the expansion of temporary worker programs, more border and inland enforcement, and an increase in detention centers.

For more information, please see <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1620107098392385>.

Renee Saucedo is Coordinator of ALMAS Libres, of the Raizes Collective.

Translation in Spanish

El 9 de marzo de 2023 U.S. Representatives Zoe Lofgren (CA), Norma Torres (CA), Grace Meng (NY), Lou Correa (CA), Adriano Espaillat (NY), and Jesús "Chuy" García (IL) reintroducido el **"Renovando Inmigración Provisiones de la ley de inmigración de 1969,"** o **"Factura de Registro."** La Factura, deja el mismo Factura de Registro del año pasado, actualizando la ley de 1929 para que personas indocumentadas puedan aplicar para permanente legal residencia siempre y cuando hayan vivido en el país al menos por los siete años pasados.

La registra, una provision del inmigración y Naciolidad (INA), a existido por casi un siglo. Estaba primera implementada por la Registra Acta de 1929 y permitia inmigrantes que han estado continuamente presente in los Estados Unidos desde Junio 3, 1921, eran de "buen moral character," y no de otra manera no eran deportable, para solicitar el estatus de residente permanente. Desde entonces, la fecha límite para el registro se ha actualizado sólo cuatro veces, generalmente como parte de reformas migratorias integrales, pero no se ha actualizado desde la era Reagan. El estatuto también ha sido modificado en otros aspectos.

Hoy en día, las comunidades de inmigrantes están empujando para que se actualice el proceso de registro estableciendo una elegibilidad de presencia de siete años para poder solicitar una tarjeta verde. Según el nuevo proyecto de ley, la Ley de Inmigración de 1929 también incorporaría un componente renovable para que no se requiera legislación futura para actualizar el registro, y las personas indocumentadas puedan presentar su solicitud después de vivir en los EE.UU. durante siete años.

Se estima que aproximadamente ocho millones de los aproximadamente once millones de personas indocumentadas en Estados Unidos se beneficiarán con esta nueva actualización de la ley actual.

A nivel nacional, el movimiento por los derechos de los inmigrantes está dividido sobre si priorizar o no seguir empujando una "reforma migratoria" este año, en vista del Congreso dominado por los republicanos. Sin embargo, muchas organizaciones de derechos de los inmigrantes, especialmente aquellas que tienen electorados de base, creen que debemos continuar organizándonos en torno a la aprobación de políticas de legalización justas. Es posible que una legislación como el Proyecto de Ley de Registro no se apruebe este año, es importante continuar fomentando la participación de la comunidad en la campaña y crear el clima político necesario para impulsar una legislación a favor de los indocumentados. Las comunidades de inmigrantes continúan organizándose, no para lograr una victoria rápida, sino más bien para seguir generando apoyo para una ley justa que ofrecerá un camino continuo hacia la ciudadanía, una solución permanente a la injusticia actual.

Actualmente, la campaña nacional "Desbloquear la Residencia Permanente a través del Registro", basada en la Coalición por los Derechos Humanos de los Inmigrantes de Los Ángeles (CHIRLA), está tomando la iniciativa de coordinar la campaña nacional en torno al Proyecto de

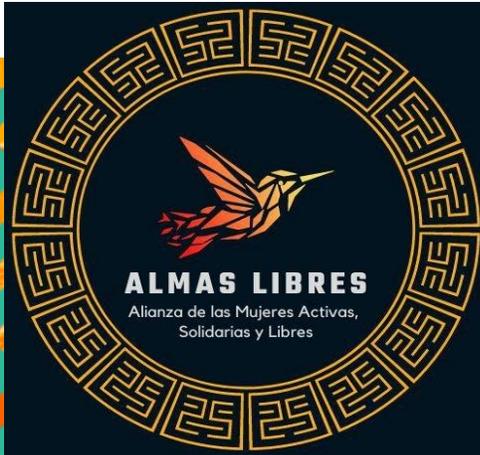
Ley de Registro. Aquí en el condado de Sonoma, organizaciones como ALMAS Libres/Raíces Colectiva y North Bay Organizing Project (NBOP) están dirigiendo la Coalición del Norte de California para una Reforma Migratoria Justa, que involucra a organizaciones y sindicatos en Sonoma, San Francisco, Humboldt y East Bay. Nuestra Coalición local colabora con CHIRLA, así como con otras coaliciones en todo el país, como Dignity Campaign y United 4 Immigration Reform.

La Coalición del Norte de California planea celebrar foros comunitarios regionales sobre el “Proyecto de Ley de Registro” y una caminata de 40 millas en agosto. Nos uniremos a grupos a nivel nacional para realizar marchas el 8 de agosto y participaremos en una Huelga General de Trabajo el 9 de agosto.

¿Por qué las comunidades de inmigrantes continúan organizándose apasionadamente en torno a un proyecto de ley de legalización, a pesar de las traiciones de los demócratas y el continuo sentimiento antiinmigrante? Los inmigrantes indocumentados explican su implicación y sacrifican lo mejor. Ellos y sus familias siguen sufriendo mucho por la falta de oportunidades para ajustar su estatus legal. Las madres y los padres no pueden ver a los niños que se vieron obligados a dejar atrás en sus países de origen. Las personas sufren angustia emocional al no ver a sus padres ancianos antes de morir. Siguen sufriendo explotación en el trabajo y siguen siendo vulnerables si se quejan de las condiciones laborales. Y sufren un temor constante de que las autoridades los descubran y los deporten, separándolos por la fuerza de sus familiares y seres queridos que viven con ellos aquí.

El año pasado, el Congreso tenía varias opciones legislativas sobre la mesa, incluida la Renovación de las Disposiciones de Inmigración de la Ley de Inmigración de 1929 (introducida en ambas cámaras), la Ley Dream and Promise (aprobada en la Cámara), Dream Act (introducida en el Senado). Ley de Modernización de la Fuerza Laboral Agrícola (aprobada por la Cámara), Ciudadanía para Trabajadores Esenciales (introducida en ambas cámaras) y Ley de Ciudadanía de EE. UU. (introducida en ambas cámaras). Las comunidades de inmigrantes apoyaron abrumadoramente el proyecto de ley relacionado con el cambio de la fecha del registro, porque no incluye políticas dañinas como la expansión de los programas de trabajadores temporales, más vigilancia en las fronteras y el interior, y un aumento de los centros de detención.

Para mas información, por favor visite <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1620107098392385>



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