

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF THE
COUNTY OF SUMMIT
STATE OF COLORADO**

A RESOLUTION AFFIRMING THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' VIGOROUS SUPPORT FOR SUMMIT COUNTY'S DIVERSE IMMIGRANT RESIDENTS; FOR THE U.S. CITIZENSHIP ACT OF 2021, WHICH WOULD OFFER A PATH TO U.S. CITIZENSHIP FOR UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS, AND WOULD HUMANELY REFORM THE IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEE SYSTEM OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA; AND FOR LEGISLATIVE EFFORTS IN THE STATE OF COLORADO TO MAKE UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS ELIGIBLE FOR STATE AND LOCAL PUBLIC BENEFITS

WHEREAS, the United States of America is a nation built by diverse peoples, including indigenous Americans, enslaved African-Americans, immigrants from every part of the world and their descendants; and

WHEREAS, ensuring our society is open to all who value freedom, opportunity, and cultural diversity is at the core of our nation's strength, and a core value of Summit County; and

WHEREAS, Colorado is home to over 500,000 immigrant residents, which is approximately nine percent of our state population, who pay taxes, build businesses, attend school, and greatly contribute to the life and prosperity of our state; and

WHEREAS, the Board is proud of Summit County's immigrant community members and celebrate the friendships, hard work, economic success, and cultural enrichments that they bring to our community; and

WHEREAS, the Board appreciates that immigrants are hard at work on the front lines of our response to the COVID-19 pandemic at the community, state and federal level as health care providers, educators, and essential workers; and

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes that many hard working, tax-paying Summit County immigrants, who help make our tourism industry run and have resided here with their families for years, are non-US citizens without a path to legal residency; and

WHEREAS, undocumented immigrants are currently ineligible for most federal, state and local public benefits; and

WHEREAS, the federal U.S. Citizenship Act of 2021 would, among other things, offer a path to U.S. citizenship for undocumented immigrants and would humanely reform the immigration and refugee system of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, legislative efforts are also underway at the Colorado General Assembly to repeal the statutory prohibition on the provision of state and local benefits to undocumented immigrants and remove barriers to public opportunities so that our immigrant community is able to access state and local public benefits including loans, grants, child care assistance, food and housing assistance, energy assistance, and other benefits currently available to our citizens; and

WHEREAS, HB21-1054 has been passed by the General Assembly and would allow undocumented immigrants to apply for public or assisted housing benefits at the federal, state or local level unless otherwise prohibited by federal law, and is now awaiting action by Governor Polis; and

WHEREAS, SB21-199 is currently pending in the Colorado Senate and mandates that lawful presence shall not a requirement of eligibility for any state or local public benefits; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires that every resident of Summit County should have an equal opportunity to pursue their goals and dreams, regardless of their country of birth or citizenship status, and strongly supports the federal and state legislative efforts to provide citizenship to all our residents and public benefits to our undocumented residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF SUMMIT, STATE OF COLORADO, THAT IT VIGOROUSLY SUPPORTS SUMMIT COUNTY'S DIVERSE IMMIGRANT RESIDENTS AND FURTHERMORE:

1. The Board affirms its support for the federal U.S. Citizenship Act of 2021, which includes both a path to citizenship for undocumented persons residing within the United States and a comprehensive reform of our immigration system that will strengthen our nation's economy, protect families, and treat all persons with compassion and dignity.
2. The Board supports the ongoing efforts to repeal the existing State of Colorado prohibition on the provision of state and local public benefits to undocumented residents in our community and state and urges Governor Polis to sign HB21-1054.

ADOPTED THIS 13th DAY OF APRIL 2021.

**COUNTY OF SUMMIT,
STATE OF COLORADO
BY AND THROUGH ITS
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Elisabeth Lawrence, Chair

ATTEST:

Kathleen Neel, Clerk & Recorder