

Resolution No. 342-06

An Emergency Resolution

Council Members Zone, Santiago, White, Brady, Cimperman, Conwell, Brancatelli, Pierce Scott, Sweeney

Opposing the “*Sensenbrenner-King Bill*”, House Resolution 4437, which would make felons of 11 million undocumented immigrants, criminalize contact with undocumented immigrants and frustrate the dreams of legal immigrants seeking citizenship.

WHEREAS, on December 16, 2005, the U.S. House of Representatives approved the *Border Protection, Antiterrorism and Illegal Immigration Act*, H.R. 4437, also known as the Sensenbrenner-King Bill; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 4437 criminalizes the mere presence of an alien without valid immigration status, thereby causing 11 million undocumented immigrants currently living and working in the U.S. to be guilty of a federal felony; and

WHEREAS, the Bill’s broad definition of “smuggling” allows the federal government to prosecute almost any American having casual contact with an undocumented immigrant; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 4437 could potentially make criminals out of church groups providing food, shelter or other assistance to undocumented immigrants, social workers assisting undocumented workers who are victims of domestic abuse, co-workers giving an undocumented immigrant a ride to work, and a U.S. citizen living with a spouse who is an undocumented immigrant; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 4437 eliminates judicial oversight of delays in the naturalization process and allows the federal government to use subjective and secretive information to bar legal immigrants from becoming U.S. citizens; and

WHEREAS, this resolution constitutes an emergency measure for the immediate preservation of public peace, property, health or safety, now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CLEVELAND:

Section 1. That this Council hereby opposes the “*Sensenbrenner-King Bill*”, House Resolution 4437, which would make felons of 11 million undocumented immigrants, criminalize contact with undocumented immigrants and frustrate the dreams of legal immigrants seeking citizenship

Section 2. That the Clerk of Council is hereby directed to transmit copies of this resolution to U.S. Senators Mike DeWine and George Voinovich.

Section 3. That this resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and, provided it receives the affirmative vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to Council, it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its adoption and approval by the Mayor; otherwise it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

MZ:rms

February 27, 2006