

RESOLUTION NO. _____

DATE: _____

**A RESOLUTION OF THE SALT LAKE COUNTY COUNCIL URGING UTAH'S
FEDERAL DELEGATION TO TAKE ACTION ON IMMIGRATION REFORM THAT
REFLECTS SALT LAKE COUNTY'S COMMITMENT AS A CERTIFIED
WELCOMING COUNTY**

WHEREAS, Salt Lake County is the first county in the United States to be officially certified by Welcoming America, a national organization that promotes inclusive communities and believes that all people, including immigrants, are valued contributors who are vital to the success of our communities and shared future; and

WHEREAS, the Salt Lake County Council (the Council) believes immigration is a federal policy issue that requires federal solutions; and

WHEREAS, knowing that the Council live in a nation of laws, we understand the strain that a broken immigration system places on our communities, our county and our nation; and

WHEREAS, the Council recognize and respect the many contributions immigrants bring to our region by energizing our neighborhoods, our economy, and our culture; and

WHEREAS, the Council values families and stands firm in the belief that immigration reform should strengthen families and ensure that family members are kept together; and

WHEREAS, the Council reject the aggressive and insensitive forced separation of children from their parents at our borders and inside our state and are unwilling to be complicit in the practice of family separation that is damaging to children; and

WHEREAS, the Council reject any local or state policy where the primary purpose of the policy is to exclude or disenfranchise immigrants; and

WHEREAS, the Council support policies that improve the health, education, and well-being of all Salt Lake County residents, and we commit to prioritizing programs connecting low-income families with early childhood education, job training, and other tools to achieve financial stability and individual success; and

WHEREAS, the Council support an economic development system that harnesses the full potential of immigrants and leverages the unique talents immigrants bring to our region; and

WHEREAS, the Council support programs that educate employers on how to achieve an immigration-inclusion workforce; identify economic development needs and opportunities for immigrants; and advance immigrants in starting, building, and growing their own businesses; and

WHEREAS, the Council support programs that educate immigrants about local, state, and federal government and provide opportunities for civic engagement; and

WHEREAS, with respect for the rule of law and support of law enforcement's professional discretion, the Council support law enforcement training programs that strengthen relationships and foster trust with diverse populations; promote consistent communication between law and code enforcement agencies and immigrant communities; and help immigrant communities feel safe and protected when in need of law enforcement services; and

WHEREAS, the Council support Salt Lake County's Office of New Americans and its efforts to encourage immigration-inclusive policies and programs, increase the naturalization rate of status-ready residents, and strengthen the capacity of community-based organizations in our region that are working on immigrant inclusion.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council urges Utah's congressional delegation to address the challenges of immigration by taking immediate action to correct and halt family separation and identify and act upon compassionate solutions that support economic vibrancy and reflect our state's values of respect for all residents; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council urges Utah's congressional delegation to enact legislation increasing the number of H-2B visas that provide a legal avenue for immigrants to enter the United States and contribute to the workforce and local economies; and enact legislation increasing the number of U visas that are available for victims of certain crimes who have suffered mental or physical abuse and are helpful to law enforcement or government officials in the investigation or prosecution of criminal activity; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council urges Utah's congressional delegation to take immediate action to address individuals and families facing uncertainty due to the threatened end of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA) program and the drastic reduction of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) grantees; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council encourages policies, programs, and practices that build strong, cohesive families and communities and provide economic, educational, and civic opportunity for all.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this ____ day of June 2019.

SALT LAKE COUNTY COUNCIL

By _____

Richard Snelgrove, Chair

Salt Lake County Council

Council Member Bradley voting	_____
Council Member Bradshaw voting	_____
Council Member Burdick voting	_____
Council Member DeBry voting	_____
Council Member Ghorbani voting	_____
Council Member Granato voting	_____
Council Member Jensen voting	_____
Council Member Newton voting	_____
Council Member Snelgrove voting	_____