

## RESOLUTION

### ROCK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Supervisor Zoril  
INITIATED BY



5/11/2023  
DATE DRAFTED

#### **Proclaiming July 2-8, 2023 Standing Against Illegal Immigration & Child Sex Trafficking Week**

**WHEREAS**, all residents, regardless of race, creed, or ethnicity, deserve to be treated with dignity, respect, compassion, and justice;

**WHEREAS**, Rock County residents value the rule of law, secure borders, and an orderly immigration system that promotes economic growth, social cohesion, and public safety;

**WHEREAS**, Rock County recognizes the importance of legal immigration in fostering a diverse, vibrant, and innovative society, while also addressing the challenges posed by illegal immigration;

**WHEREAS**, encouraging legal pathways to immigration ensures that immigrants are afforded the rights and protections they deserve, while also preserving our nation's values and promoting social cohesion;

**WHEREAS**, the elimination of illegal immigration can be achieved only with the participation of all residents in dialogue, reflection, and action, supporting the enforcement of immigration laws and the creation of a fair and efficient legal immigration process;

**WHEREAS**, taking a stand against illegal immigration is not an act of hostility towards immigrants, but a call for a fair and orderly immigration system that safeguards the interests and well-being of both the country and the immigrants;

~~**WHEREAS**, Rock County supports NumbersUSA in its praiseworthy mission to set annual immigration at a level that allows for the stabilization of U.S. population and long-term sustainability of the American quality of life, and to support American workers, especially the most vulnerable, by preventing wage suppression and unfair competition for jobs;~~

~~**WHEREAS**, Rock County acknowledges the role of NumbersUSA in raising awareness about the impact of illegal immigration on public resources, the economy, and public safety, and encourages a thoughtful and balanced approach to immigration reform;~~

**WHEREAS**, undocumented immigrants are frequently exploited and mistreated in the labor market, particularly in the agricultural sector, where they face low wages and poor working conditions; the Southern Poverty Law Center highlights that federal regulations like the "adverse effect wage rate" (AEWR) are often criticized for being too low, as they do not reflect inflation or account for the need to offer competitive wages to attract and retain workers. Furthermore, the AEWR is based on previous year's wage rates that include the 55% or more of farmworkers who are undocumented, resulting in depressed wages compared to what they would be if only U.S. citizens and authorized immigrants held the jobs. This allows unscrupulous employers to capitalize on undocumented workers' lack of legal status to pay substandard wages, impose unsafe working conditions, and deny them basic labor rights.

**WHEREAS**, illegal immigration can fuel human trafficking, drug smuggling, and other criminal activities, putting the lives and well-being of the immigrants themselves at great risk, as well as those in the surrounding communities;

**WHEREAS**, according to the International Labor Organization, an organization that advocates for advancing social justice, there are an estimated 4.8 million people trapped in forced sexual exploitation globally, a significant portion of whom are children trafficked across borders illegally, exploiting their vulnerability and innocence;

**WHEREAS**, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) reports that children comprise a third of trafficking victims worldwide, with girls significantly outnumbering boys, and that these children are at an alarming risk of being forced into sexual exploitation, which is a gross violation of their fundamental rights;

**WHEREAS**, U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has identified that human trafficking, including child sex trafficking, is significantly facilitated by illegal immigration, with traffickers exploiting the desperation and vulnerability of their victims who are often in search of a better life, thereby turning the American dream into a nightmare for these innocent lives;

**WHEREAS**, illegal immigrants may be less likely to report crimes or cooperate with law enforcement due to fear of deportation, hindering the ability of the Sheriff's Office, District Attorney, and Circuit Court to effectively address and prosecute criminal activity, and ultimately impacting public safety for all residents;

**WHEREAS**, the 911 Communications Center plays a critical role in emergency response, and the presence of a large undocumented population with limited English proficiency may pose challenges in providing timely and efficient emergency services, necessitating the allocation of additional resources for language services and training to ensure effective communication and response during emergencies.

**WHEREAS**, the Child Support Enforcement agency's efforts to ensure that children receive financial support from their parents may be complicated by the presence of illegal immigrants, as they often work in the informal economy, making it difficult to track income and enforce child support orders, which may lead to increased reliance on public assistance programs and an additional burden on taxpayers.

**WHEREAS**, a secure border is crucial in addressing the opioid epidemic and drug smuggling, as approximately 90% of the heroin consumed in the United States is trafficked across the southern border, exacerbating the drug crisis and causing devastating consequences for communities across the nation;

**WHEREAS**, a secure border is critical to national security and the protection against terrorists, as the potential for undetected entry of individuals with malicious intent poses a significant risk to the safety and well-being of the United States and its citizens;

**WHEREAS**, the dangerous journey undertaken by illegal immigrants in their attempt to cross the border often results in loss of life, with an estimated 8,015 migrant deaths documented along the U.S.-Mexico border between 1998 and 2020, according to the U.S. Customs and Border Protection, highlighting the need for secure borders and legal pathways to protect the lives of those seeking a better future;

**WHEREAS**, the presence of a large undocumented population strains the resources of local communities, leading to overcrowded schools, hospitals, and other public services, which negatively impacts both citizens and illegal immigrants alike;

**WHEREAS**, the absence of legal protections and access to essential services, such as healthcare and education, leads to a diminished quality of life for illegal immigrants and perpetuates a cycle of poverty and marginalization;

**WHEREAS**, illegal immigration can strain public health resources, as approximately 45% of undocumented immigrants lack health insurance, increasing reliance on emergency care (Kaiser Family Foundation);

**WHEREAS**, Rock County is committed to health equity and ensuring that all residents have access to essential healthcare services, recognizing that the high uninsured rate among illegal immigrants, due to limited access to coverage options and low-wage employment, results in delayed or forgone care, placing a burden on emergency care providers and potentially exacerbating health disparities within the community (Kaiser Family Foundation);

**WHEREAS**, the presence of uninsured individuals, including illegal immigrants, can contribute to increased medical costs and medical debt for American citizens, as healthcare providers may shift the financial burden of uncompensated care onto insured patients through higher prices, ultimately leading to increased insurance premiums and out-of-pocket expenses for citizens, exacerbating the challenge of healthcare affordability;

**WHEREAS**, illegal immigration can contribute to overcrowded housing conditions, with the share of illegal immigrant workers (21 percent) in overcrowded housing is about five times as high as the share

of native-born workers (4 percent) (Center for Immigration Studies);

~~WHEREAS, Rock County, in celebration of Stand Against Illegal Immigration Week, seeks to foster understanding and cooperation between all residents, promoting a safe, secure, and prosperous community for everyone, in alignment with NumbersUSA's goals for responsible immigration policy;~~

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Rock County Board of Supervisors on this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023, hereby declares July 2-8, 2023 as Stand Against Illegal Immigration & Child Sex Trafficking Week in the County of Rock and encourages residents, local businesses, educators, and community and faith-based organizations to engage in thoughtful dialogue, education, and advocacy for the enforcement of immigration laws, the development of a fair, efficient, and sustainable legal immigration system, ~~and to support the efforts of NumbersUSA in raising awareness about responsible immigration policy."~~

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Rock County Board of Supervisors urges our state and national representatives to take decisive legislative action against child sex trafficking, provide resources for its victims, and to address the role that illegal immigration plays in enabling this heinous crime. Furthermore, we encourage all residents to educate themselves about these pressing issues and advocate for meaningful reforms to protect the most vulnerable amongst us.

**Committee Action**

Public Safety & Justice Committee

Motion by Supervisor Whitledge to amend the resolution and remove the references to the "Numbers USA organization", second by Supervisor Beaver. ADOPTED. Public Safety & Justice Committee recommended this amended resolution for approval by a roll call vote of 3-2 in which Supervisors Zoril, Whitledge, and Beaver voted "Aye" and Supervisors Bonkamp and Knudson voted "Nay."

POSTPONED INDEFINITELY