

Republican Liberty Caucus

The Conscience of the Republican Party

Draft Resolution on Immigration

Duly certified delegates to the RLC National Convention of 2006 find that:

Whereas

1. Every human being is endowed by nature with inherent rights to life, liberty and property that are properly secured by law¹;
2. The United States was founded by immigrants and has welcomed them throughout its history as vital contributors to our national culture and ethnic diversity;
3. We support a responsible transition to private financial alternatives, rather than maintenance or expansion of compulsory government retirement, disability, and health programs²;
4. We oppose all forms of government entitlement for any citizen, resident, or visitor to our country;
5. Peaceful diplomatic relations, free trade and open borders enhance the ability of citizens to travel, engage in international commerce, and we support the pursuit of liberty everywhere in the world³;
6. A free labor market allows all persons to pursue their own happiness and contribute to the prosperity and wealth of our nation;
7. We support equitable treaties that enhance security and exchange with other nations, but oppose any agreement that infringes on the sovereignty of the United States⁴;
8. Precautions against criminal and terrorist infiltration are required to ensure against attacks on the lives and property of every citizen;
9. The Constitution grants Congress the authority to regulate naturalization and immigration⁵;
10. Fair and equitable treatment of all visitors and immigrants requires clear and consistent terms and conditions for their entry or transition to citizenship;

Therefore,

1. We urge all nations to adopt the principles of individual rights, limited government, and private enterprise that will allow their citizens to pursue their own happiness in their own countries;
2. We oppose any and all tax-supported welfare benefits for citizens, immigrants, or visitors to our nation and favor a responsible transition to private charities and voluntary commitments of support for all those in need;
3. We favor the repeal of vague and arbitrary immigration laws that discriminate on the basis of nationality, ethnicity, religious belief, or marketable skills;
4. We propose that all entry visas require a private surety bond that protects taxpayers against the cost of enforcing reasonable and timely reporting, financial and medical support, and the imprisonment or deportation of violators⁶;
5. We favor efficient and proportional efforts to secure our borders against invasion or unsecured entry, but we oppose any measures that would require any person to prove their identity or citizenship status to police or federal law enforcement agencies and we oppose any requirement that employers, or any citizen, be held liable for enforcing immigration law;
6. We support naturalization requirements that include full compliance with visa terms and conditions, a demonstrable knowledge of our history, laws, and language, as well as a full commitment to support and defend the Constitution of the United States.

Endnotes

¹ RLC Statement of Principles

² RLC Entitlements Position

³ RLC Foreign Relations Position

⁴ RLC Foreign Relations Position

⁵ Constitution Article 1, Sections 8 & 9

⁶ The RLC does not compose legislation, but favors free-market alternatives to government tasks that are properly private. Personal surety bonds are guarantees of performance that may be purchased by any person, or an interested party on behalf of another. They ensure that a person will comply with the terms and conditions of an agreement, in this case the time and reporting requirements of a visa. Prices would be set by private indemnity insurers, based on the length of stay and their own estimation of risks for each category or person. Travel bonds could be acquired at very low cost by travel agencies, interested organizations, or family. Work visas bonds could be purchased by individuals, employers, unions, or charitable organizations. Each bond would be fully redeemable upon departure or compliance with the terms, less any interest and expenses of the indemnity company. In the event of violations, the bond would be redeemed to cover all the costs imposed on taxpayers or the expense of government enforcement. We welcome detailed proposals that incorporate these principles and objectives.