

REFERENCE TITLE: new Americans; honoring contributions

State of Arizona
Senate
Fifty-sixth Legislature
First Regular Session
2023

SR 1002

Introduced by
Senator Kaiser

A RESOLUTION

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF NEW AMERICANS TO THIS STATE.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Whereas, Arizona is a welcoming state where hardworking people of
2 all origins and walks of life can live, work and thrive; and

3 Whereas, 13.4% of Arizonans -- more than 972,110 people -- were born
4 outside of the United States, and these Arizonans contribute to this
5 state's unique culture and diversity; and

6 Whereas, one in six Arizona workers were born outside of the United
7 States, and new American workers play a vital role in this state's core
8 industries; and

9 Whereas, Arizona ranks in the top four of the best states in the
10 nation for business in 2022, and the role of new Americans in this
11 business success is undeniable; and

12 Whereas, Arizona values the determination and entrepreneurial spirit
13 of its small businesses. New Americans are a driving force in this
14 state's small business community, owning one in five businesses in Arizona
15 that generate over \$1.86 million in revenue annually; and

16 Whereas, Arizona's workforce is increasingly global, with this
17 state's business leaders forging a powerful partnership with new American
18 communities to recruit skilled, talented and motivated workers; and

19 Whereas, global talent is also driving growth in Arizona's
20 high-producing science, technology, engineering and math industries, in
21 which 20.1% of workers are new Americans; and

22 Whereas, global talent is particularly important to Arizona's health
23 care system. Nearly 13% of nurses, 24.7% of health aides and 27% of
24 physicians in this state were born outside of the United States. While
25 the state is in great need of more qualified medical professionals to
26 address workforce shortages, particularly in rural areas, a large
27 percentage of foreign-born Arizonans with health-related degrees are
28 underutilized; and

29 Whereas, in Arizona, hardworking new Americans across all sectors
30 paid nearly \$7.7 billion in federal, state and local taxes and held more
31 than \$23.1 billion in spending power in 2019; and

32 Whereas, it is in this state's interest to find innovative ways to
33 spark economic growth, and there is tremendous untapped potential in
34 Arizona's growing new American workforce; and

35 Whereas, industries across the state are rapidly adapting to changes
36 in technology and an evolving economy, and strategic support is crucial to
37 ensuring that Arizona has a skilled workforce to support current and
38 future needs; and

39 Whereas, Arizona can maximize the talent of new Americans and help
40 them reach their full potential by identifying and removing barriers to
41 their full economic participation; and

1 Whereas, this state can invest in a bright future and provide
2 greater prosperity for all Arizonans by ensuring that new Americans and
3 their children are welcomed and supported and have access to opportunity
4 so they can integrate into their new communities.

5 Therefore

6 Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Arizona:

7 That the Members of the Senate recognize and honor the rich social
8 and economic contributions of new Americans to this state.