



City of Chicago



R2013-458

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Meeting Date:	5/8/2013
Sponsor(s):	Burns, William D. (4)
Type:	Resolution
Title:	Support of Diversity Visa Program
Committee(s) Assignment:	

**RESOLUTION of the CHICAGO CITY COUNCIL
IN SUPPORT OF THE DIVERSITY VISA PROGRAM**

Introduced by Alderman William Burns

WHEREAS, the City of Chicago and the United States were founded by immigrants, who have traveled from all continents to seek a better life; and

WHEREAS, our nation's immigration system should uphold our basic values of family, economic opportunity, and fairness; and

WHEREAS, the Diversity Visa program was established by federal law in 1990 to provide an opportunity for 55,000 immigrants each year from countries that send smaller numbers of immigrants to United States to immigrate legally; and

WHEREAS, the Diversity Visa program is truly an American Dream program in that it does not require any close family or work ties to immigrate, just a willingness to come to the United States to pursue one's dream and contribute to this country; and

WHEREAS, hundreds of thousands of immigrants who have benefited from the Diversity Visa program have become US citizens and are helping to build the economic, cultural, and civic life of our city and our country in innumerable ways; and

WHEREAS, the Diversity Visa program has truly diversified the range of countries from which immigrants now come to the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Diversity Visa program is one of the few options for African immigrants to come to the United States, and in many years as many as half of all Diversity Visas are issued to immigrants from Africa; and

WHEREAS, immigration from Africa would be severely curtailed and African immigrants would lose a major opportunity to immigrate legally if the Diversity Visa program is eliminated; and

WHEREAS, the US Senate is considering new bipartisan legislation that would reform our immigration system; and

WHEREAS, this legislation would eliminate the Diversity Visa program and replace it with a "merit" system that gives limited consideration to nationals of countries that send fewer immigrants to the United States; and

WHEREAS, any comprehensive reform to our immigration system must provide fair opportunities for immigrants to come to the United States lawfully; and

WHEREAS, abolishing the Diversity Visa program would limit the opportunities for many immigrants, especially from Africa, to come to the United States lawfully; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Mayor and members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, gathered here this Eighth Day of May, 2013, A.D., do hereby wholeheartedly support the Diversity Visa program and urge the United States Senate and the United States House of

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(3)

Representatives to preserve the Diversity Visa program in any comprehensive immigration reform legislation they approve and to otherwise preserve opportunities for immigrants from African nations and from other countries that send fewer immigrants to the United States to come to this country legally and pursue their dreams;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to the United States Congress.



William D. Burns
Alderman, 4th Ward
City of Chicago

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