



RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF COMMONSENSE IMMIGRATION REFORM

Endorsed July 2014

WHEREAS, the Coalition of Bar Associations of Color (CBAC), organized in 1992, is a coalition created to act as a collective voice for issues of common concern to its member organizations; and

WHEREAS, the member organizations of the Coalition of Bar Associations of Color are the Hispanic National Bar Association (HNBA), the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA), the National Bar Association (NBA), and the National Native American Bar Association (NNABA); and

WHEREAS, this country is the aboriginal homeland home of Native Americans and has benefited from the contributions of individuals who came against their will as slaves, as well as those who traveled from around the world to seek a better life; and

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

WHEREAS, families are the source of this Nation's social, cultural, and economic vitality, and a fair and workable comprehensive immigration plan must be consistent with America's tradition of family reunification; and

WHEREAS, the United States immigration system, which has torn apart families, created long visa backlogs, and contributed to the production of high numbers of undocumented foreign nationals in the United States, is broken and in dire need of comprehensive reform; and

WHEREAS, the United States needs legislation that provides a pathway to earned citizenship for undocumented immigrants currently residing within our country, who work hard and share values cherished by the United States, and who otherwise pose no threats to the national security of our nation; and

WHEREAS, family reunification is a core national value and interest that must be respected in any immigration reform legislation; and

WHEREAS, the United States needs to address the problems of family separation and immigration quota backlogs in both family and employment preference categories by implementing fair and efficient processes for the legal immigration system that do not sacrifice family based immigration for employment based immigration, as the two complement one another and must work in tandem; and

WHEREAS, foreign nationals in the United States contribute to the United States economy and labor force to the benefit of the United States, and it is in the economic benefit and national interest of the United States to implement commonsense immigration reform; and

WHEREAS, foreign nationals in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) present special opportunities to the United States in innovation and advancement, and they should be permitted to fast-track their application for U.S. permanent residence; and

WHEREAS, the United States must have a system that permits workers to enter the U.S. legally to meet the needs of U.S. employers in agriculture, hospitality, and other industries that are subject to seasonal changes of labor need; and

WHEREAS, the United States must require the highest standards in immigration detention centers to ensure that all detainees are treated with dignity, respect, and care, and that they are not subject to ridicule, abuse, or other forms of maltreatment; and

WHEREAS, food and medical attention must be provided for and not withheld as a form of punishment, due process concerns must be addressed, and judicial discretion must be reinstated; and

WHEREAS, it is in the interest of all employers in the United States to have a reliable system by which they may verify work eligibility of their workers to ensure that they can demonstrate good faith compliance of hiring only eligible workers and to prevent unscrupulous employers from taking advantage of undocumented workers, temporary workers, and visa holders; and

WHEREAS, any change in immigration law would have significant impact on the African American, Asian Pacific American, Latino, and Native American communities and our attorney constituents; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CBAC calls for full support of the creation of commonsense immigration reform legislation by the Congress consistent with the provisions contained in this resolution; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CBAC opposes immigration reform legislation that does not include an earned path to citizenship; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CBAC supports administrative relief that will address the harms caused by lack of action by Congress; and


NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CBAC authorizes its officers and staff to communicate the content of this resolution to its members, affiliates, other bar associations, members of Congress, the Administration, the press, and others to take steps to implement this resolution, as they deem necessary; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this resolution shall be the legislative priority of the Coalition of Bar Associations of Color until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

CERTIFICATION


WE, the duly-elected Presidents of the Hispanic National Bar Association (HNBA), the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA), the National Bar Association (NBA), and the National Native American Bar Association (NNABA), hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly enacted by a duly noticed meeting of the Board of Directors.






Miguel Alexander Pozo
President, Hispanic National Bar Association

July 15, 2014
Date




William J. Simonitsch
President, National Asian Pacific American Bar Association

July 15, 2014
Date



Patricia Rosier
President, National Bar Association

July 15, 2014
Date



Mary Smith
President, National Native American Bar Association

15 July 2014
Date

