



Est. 1992

Coalition of Bar Associations of Color

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF COMMONSENSE IMMIGRATION REFORM

Endorsed March 2015

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 CBAC 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, the member organizations of CBAC are the national voices of their respective legal communities in the United States and its territories and possessions; 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 RESOLVED, that CBAC opposes immigration reform legislation that does not include an earned path to citizenship; and

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

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that CBAC also supports other efforts and laws that are consistent with this resolution; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CBAC authorizes its officers and staff to communicate the content of this resolution to other bar associations, advocacy groups, members of Congress, the Administration, the press, and to whomever else CBAC board deems suitable to receive the information; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be the policy of CBAC 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 Coalition Bar Associations of Color.



Cynthia Mares
President, Hispanic National Bar Association

3/2/2015
Date

George C. Chen
President, National Asian Pacific American Bar Association

3/2/2015
Date

Pamela Meanes

Pamela Meanes
President, National Bar Association

3/2/2015

Date

Mary Smith

Mary Smith
President, National Native American Bar Association

3/2/2015

Date