



Est. 1992

Coalition of Bar Associations of Color

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING LEGISLATIVE ACTION TO PRESERVE THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT

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, on June 25, 2013 the Supreme Court issued a decision in *Shelby County v. Holder*, a case challenging the constitutionality of provisions of the Voting Rights Act; and

WHEREAS, in a 5-4 decision, the Court struck down Section 4 of the Voting Rights Act, invalidating the coverage formula that determines which jurisdictions are subject to Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act, and its preclearance provisions; and

WHEREAS, Chief Justice John Roberts explicitly recognized that “voting discrimination still exists,” but the Court did not rule on the constitutionality of Section 5; and

WHEREAS, the Voting Rights Act provides critical protection for millions of voters, particularly in states with a history of voter suppression; and

WHEREAS, without a coverage formula (Section 4b) the voting rights of millions of historically disenfranchised populations, which are primarily communities of color, are now endangered; and

WHEREAS, The Supreme Court’s decision striking the coverage provision of the Voting Rights Act ignores the manifest evidence regarding the pervasive efforts to disenfranchise people of color across the country as borne out as recently as the 2014 elections; and

WHEREAS, Congress, less a decade ago, reauthorized the Voting Rights Act and created a robust record demonstrating the ongoing need for federal voter protection; and

WHEREAS, the Voting Rights Act has received strong bipartisan support in Congress and the White House since 1965; and

WHEREAS, any change in the enforcement of the Voting Rights Act is of significant concern to communities of color and our attorney constituents; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the member organizations of CBAC support the passage of bipartisan legislation to protect the voting rights of all Americans, especially those targeted by discriminatory efforts; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the member organizations of CBAC call for passage of legislation to update and pass a new, modernized coverage formula to determine what jurisdictions will be subject to Section 5 so that voters in jurisdictions with pervasive histories of discrimination continue to be protected and as required by the decision in *Shelby County v Holder*; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the member organizations of CBAC support an earned and secure path to citizenship for undocumented minors and others who arrived in the U.S. as minors; 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 minority bar association members, members of the U.S. Congress, the Executive Office of the President, 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

Cynthia Mares
President, Hispanic National Bar Association

3/2/2015
Date

George C. Chen

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