



Resolution Supporting the DREAM Act

WHEREAS, the Coalition of Bar Associations of Color (CBAC), organized in 1983, 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 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 United States was founded by immigrants who have traveled from around the world 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 U.S. immigration system, which has torn apart families, created long backlogs for legal visas, and has produced an undocumented population of approximately twelve million immigrants, is broken and is in dire need of comprehensive reform; and

WHEREAS, among the undocumented immigrants are hundreds of thousands of young people who were brought to the United States while they were children to be with their parents or other family or friends; and

WHEREAS, many of these youths have excelled in school, worked hard to fund their studies and support their families, and become leaders in their communities; and

WHEREAS, each year approximately 65,000 U.S. raised students who would benefit from the DREAM Act graduate from high school; and

WHEREAS, these youths are highly motivated to continue with their education (with many doing so despite being ineligible for federal financial aid or in-state tuition) or to serve our nation as members of the U.S. Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, despite their excellent academic records and contributions to the community, these youths are in constant fear of being identified, detained, and deported by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security; and

WHEREAS, the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act, is a bipartisan proposal that would enable many of these students to earn legal status, continue with their educations, and pursue careers that would enable them to further contribute to the United States; and

WHEREAS, students who meet the proposed criteria are at risk of losing their opportunity to ultimately gain legal status and pursue their education and life in the United States if they were to be deported:

1. Have good moral character; and
2. Came to the United States at age 15 or younger; and
3. Have been physically present in the United States for at least five years before the date of the bill's enactment; and
4. Are younger than a specific age (proposals have been 35 and under, or 30 and under); and

WHEREAS, the fact that the Congress has failed to pass the DREAM Act this year has resulted in yet another class of outstanding, law-abiding high school students who will graduate without being able to plan for the future and risk being removed from their homes to countries they barely know.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the CBAC calls for Congress to enact the DREAM Act so that thousands of young people who qualify for legal status under the DREAM Act have the chance to fully integrate themselves into society and contribute to the success of the United States; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the CBAC supports an earned and secure path to citizenship for undocumented minors and others who arrived in the U.S. as minors; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the CBAC authorizes the communication of the content of this resolution to members of the U.S. Senate, members of the U.S. House of Representatives, the press, and to others the CBAC deems appropriate to receive the information; and

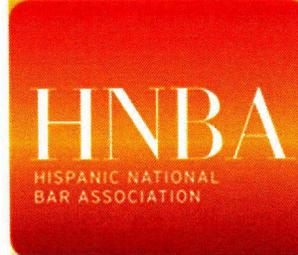
THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be the legislative priority of the CBAC until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

CERTIFICATION

We, the duly elected leadership of the Hispanic National Bar Association, the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association, the National Bar Association, and the National Native American Bar Association, hereby certify that this resolution was duly enacted by the CBAC at its annual meeting on the 16th of May 2012.

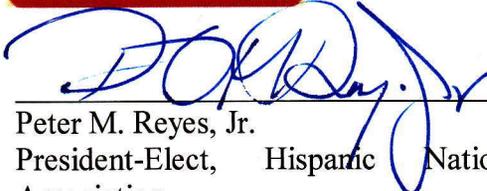


National Asian Pacific American Bar Association

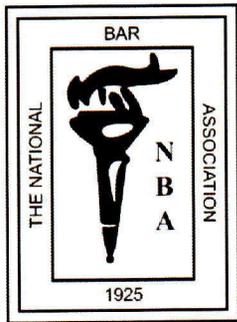




Nimesh Patel
President, National Asian Pacific American Bar Association

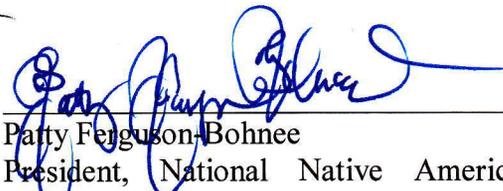


Peter M. Reyes, Jr.
President-Elect, Hispanic National Bar Association





Daryl Parks
President, National Bar Association



Patty Ferguson Bohnce
President, National Native American Bar Association