RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE SECOND CHANCE ACT OF 2011 (S. 1231 AND H.R. 2065)

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 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, the Second Chance Act of 2011 is designed to rehabilitate and to prepare ex-offenders for a healthy and positive reentry into normal society once they are released from correctional facilities and institutions and to reduce recidivism;

WHEREAS, the Second Chance Act also outlines an extensive process for the expungement of certain criminal records in limited circumstances;

WHEREAS, ninety-five percent of all current prisoners will be released at some point and, at the current rate, more than half of them will return to prison within three years;

WHEREAS, the U.S. currently spends $45 billion a year on prisons, up from $7 billion in 1980. In many states, it costs $40,000 to keep someone in prison for one year as much as a year's worth of tuition at Harvard University;

WHEREAS, the Second Chance Act provides for programs to ease the transition for adult and youth offenders upon their release from prison (the money can be spent on addiction and mental-health treatment, job training, education, housing, and other services);

WHEREAS, the Second Chance Act of 2011 authorizes a number of programs aimed at offenders, including treatment programs as an alternative to incarceration and expansion of drug treatment programs inside prison walls;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Coalition of Bar Associations of Color urges Congress to pass the Second Chance Act and fully fund the Second Chance Act so that its provisions and programs may be implemented.

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that this resolution shall be the legislative priority of the Coalition of Bar Associations of Color until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.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 they foregoing Resolution was duly enacted by a duly-noticed meetings of the Board of Directors.

Diana Sen  
President, Hispanic National Bar Association  

Paul O. Hirose  
President, National Asian Pacific American Bar Association  

Demetrius Shelton  
President, National Bar Association  

Mary Smith  
President-Elect, National Native American Bar Association  

7/20/11  
Date