



Est. 1992

Coalition of Bar Associations of Color

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE DREAM 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, 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 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, a growing number of states, eighteen, have provisions allowing for in-state tuition rates for undocumented students; and

WHEREAS, sixteen states (California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Kansas, Maryland, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Texas, Utah, and Washington) extend in-state tuition rates to undocumented students through state legislation and, Colorado, Florida, Minnesota, New Jersey and Oregon all passed such measures within the last two years; and

WHEREAS, four states (Hawaii, Oklahoma, Michigan and Rhode Island), allow in-state tuition rates to undocumented students through board of regents decisions with Virginia's attorney general granting in-state tuition to those covered under DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals); and

WHEREAS, five states (California, Minnesota, New Mexico, Texas and Washington) currently allow undocumented students to receive state financial aid; 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 in 2014 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; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the member organizations of CBAC call 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

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 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