



Est. 1992

Coalition of Bar Associations of Color

## **RESOLUTION SUPPORTING EQUITY IN EDUCATION LEGISLATION**

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**, race, ethnicity, and economic disparities cause disparate impacts on the educational opportunities and outcomes across communities throughout the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, of the disparities experienced in this country an immense, but not insurmountable gap exists in the education of minority youth; and

**WHEREAS**, studies have shown that education is the keystone in addressing other ills and disparities in American society such as income inequality and poverty; and

**WHEREAS**, it is to the benefit of the larger society that all children receive a substantial education because this creates an educated labor force that will continue to provide the United States with a competitive edge in the global economy; and

**WHEREAS**, all available research has shown that a student's earning potential is exponentially increased with a college degree; and

**WHEREAS**, early education is the foundation that allows a student to build confidence that then translates into the self-esteem and problem solving skills necessary for active participation in society; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the member associations of CBAC support legislation that seeks to bridge the gap in achievement and opportunity in the American education system by addressing issues such as: (1) the school-to-prison pipeline, (2) disciplinary

gaps between minority and non-minority students, (3) unequal access to quality public education, and (4) increased funding for educational support programs, such as TRIO, GEAR UP, HEP/CAMP, etc.; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that CBAC supports the Youth PROMISE Act, as introduced by Congressman Bobby Scott (D-VA), which would amend the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 and create a PROMISE Advisory Panel to assist the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention in: (1) assessing and developing standards and evidence based practices to prevent juvenile delinquency and street gang activity, and (2) collect data in designated geographic areas to assess the needs and existing resources; the Youth PROMISE Act would also authorize the Administrator of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency prevention to award grants to local governments and Native American tribes and establish the National Research Center for Proven Juvenile Justice Practices to provide the public with research related to juvenile delinquency.

**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

**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*

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Cynthia Mares  
President, Hispanic National Bar Association

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Date 3/2/2015

*George C. Chen*

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

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Date 3/2/2015

*Pamela Meanes*

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Pamela Meanes  
President, National Bar Association

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Date 3/2/2015

*Mary Smith*

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Mary Smith  
President, National Native American Bar Association

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Date 3/2/2015