CBAC 2018 RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF LEGISLATION TO PROTECT THE
STATUS OF, AND CREATE A PATH TO CITIZENSHIP FOR, DACA RECIPIENTS

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 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 member organizations of the CBAC are the national voices of their respective legal communities in the United States and its territories and possessions; and

WHEREAS, the CBAC is invested in promoting the rich tapestry of backgrounds, ethnicities, cultures, experiences and interests that characterize the American population; and

WHEREAS, the United States’ immigration system should reflect our nation’s basic values of family, economic opportunity, and fairness; and

WHEREAS, the majority of Americans believe that the United States needs legislation that provides a permanent legal status and a pathway to citizenship for undocumented youth, commonly known as “DREAMers” [referring to the original 2001 legislation, entitled the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act]; and

WHEREAS, the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program has empowered nearly 800,000 young people originating from all over the world including African, Asian, Caribbean, and Latin American nations, to come out of the shadows to work legally, get drivers licenses, go to college, serve in the military, meaningfully volunteer and serve their communities, and fulfill their economic and personal goals in greater measure, while simultaneously delivering significant benefits to the U.S. economy; and

WHEREAS, more than 97% of DACA recipients are in school or in the workforce and DACA helped recipients secure jobs with better pay, thus contributing in greater measure to the U.S. economy; and
WHEREAS, foreign nationals in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) present special opportunities to the United States in innovation and advancement, and they should be permitted to “fast-track” their application for legal permanent residency; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that losing the DREAMer population would cost our economy nearly half a trillion dollars in gross domestic product (GDP) loss over the next decade, and harm American employers by costing them an estimated $6.3 billion in unnecessary turnover costs to recruit, hire and train more than 700,000 new employees, at least, who are currently employed under DACA authorization; and

WHEREAS, for the past five years, because of the DREAMers’ contributions to the U.S. economy, our economy is stronger, has more businesses, and our tax base is larger; and

WHEREAS, because DACA recipients are more likely to start their own businesses than the general American population (five percent of all DREAMers and eight percent of DREAMers over the age of 25 have started their own businesses in the United States, compared to a 3.1 percent of the U.S. population), and small businesses are key source of job growth, DREAMers are integral to the future economic growth of this country; and

WHEREAS, because the DACA Program has helped almost 70 percent of DREAMers secure better-paying jobs than they likely would have been able to obtain if they had no legal status, and better pay leads to major purchases, the DACA Program has allowed DREAMers to contribute even more to this economy than they could have without the program; and

WHEREAS, history shows that our nation depends on the infusion of ideas, creativity and energy that immigrants bring with them; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that the passage of legislation placing DREAMers on a path to legal status would add a total of $22.7 billion annually to the U.S. GDP, and an estimated $281 billion to the U.S. economy over the next ten years, and ultimately raise the average incomes of all Americans on a per capita basis; and

WHEREAS, if even half of all workers who are immediately eligible for the DREAM Act complete the educational requirements to move from conditional status to lawful permanent residency—as distinct from the military service or employment paths—the annual gains could be even greater, reaching as high as $728.4 billion cumulatively over a decade; and

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1 Nearly two-thirds of DACA recipients report buying their first car, and almost one in six report buying a new home, after their applications were approved; and DACA recipients also pay billions of dollars in federal, state and local taxes.

2 Last year, all six of the American winners of the Nobel Prize in economics and scientific fields were first-generation immigrants. First-generation immigrants or their children founded more than 40 percent of Fortune 500 companies in this country.
WHEREAS, the CBAC believes that Congress should heed to the more than 400 leaders of Fortune 500 companies who signed a letter to Congress in support of DREAMers and urging Congress to pass clean DREAM Act legislation, stating, “DREAMers are vital to the future of our companies and our economy. With them, we grow and create jobs,” and that DREAMers, “are part of why we will continue to have a global competitive advantage”; and

WHEREAS, administrative or legislative efforts to expand the scope of enforcement priorities to target youth and immigrants with no criminal records do not make our country safer or more prosperous, do not help create a more fair or just society, and do not resolve the underlying issue of our broken immigration system;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the CBAC calls on Congress to pass legislation that codifies the benefits currently conferred upon recipients of the DACA program, including but not limited to authorization for employment, and clemency from immigration detention; as well as legal status that provides for a path to citizenship; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the CBAC opposes legislation for DACA Recipients that does not include: conditional permanent residence; lawful permanent residence; and an earned path to citizenship; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the CBAC calls for the passage of legislation to protect DREAMers that does not include provisions related to ancillary immigration or other unrelated issues and does not attempt in any way to undermine, diminish or remove DREAMers’ equal protection and due process rights under the Constitution; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the CBAC supports administrative relief that will address the harm caused to DREAMers by lack of action by Congress; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the CBAC opposes administrative efforts to target or remove immigrants DREAMers, who have been shown to pose no danger to this country.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the CBAC authorizes the presidents, boards, and staff of each CBAC organization to communicate the content of this resolution to its members, affiliates, other bar associations, members of Congress, the Administration, the press, and others to take steps to implement this resolution, as they deem necessary; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the CBAC supports this resolution as a policy priority until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution; and

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

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3 See https://www.businessleadersdreamletter.com/
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 Board of Directors.

Erica V. Mason
President, Hispanic National Bar Association

Pankit J. Doshi
President, National Asian Pacific American Bar Association

Juan R. Thomas
President, National Bar Association

Diandra Benally
President, National Native American Bar Association

2/26/18
Date