HNBA
HISPANIC NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF IMMIGRATION REFORM

WHEREAS, the Hispanic National Bar Association (HNBA) represents the interests of over 75,000 Hispanic legal professionals, which includes attorneys, judges, law professors, legal assistants, and law students in the United States and its territories;[i]

WHEREAS, the HNBA has since its founding in 1972 advocated extensively on immigration issues, borne out years of experience representing clients involved with the United States immigration system;

WHEREAS, immigrants make important contributions to the economic development, cultural heritage and social fabric of the country;

WHEREAS, the current system is broken with millions of undocumented immigrants without hope of regulating their status in the near future;

WHEREAS, this is unfair to hardworking immigrant communities who frequently work under some of the most dangerous conditions, for the lowest pay, and with little to no job security;

WHEREAS, The United States has more immigrants than any other country in the world (more than 40 million people living in the United States were born in another country);[ii]

WHEREAS, in 2017, The Pew Research Center estimated that there were 10.5 million undocumented immigrants;[iii]

WHEREAS, a Center for American Progress study in 2021 found that putting undocumented immigrants on a pathway to citizenship would increase U.S. GDP by up to $1.7 trillion over the next decade;[iv]

THEREFORE, IT BE RESOLVED, HNBA urges the 118th Congress to support:

- A comprehensive immigration solution, not enforcement only policies;
- Earned legalization which provides a pathway for individuals to adjust their status in this country after a fixed amount of time and meeting certain conditions (e.g., good behavior)(this includes aiming to provide permanent status for TPS and dreamers);
- Permanent legalization of DACA recipients as they navigate the uncertainty of the legal system and have by definition lived in the United States for nearly their entire lives;
- Family-based immigration reform so families can stay together and be reunited; and
- Migrant laborers who are temporarily in this country, to have real protections in the workplace that will be enforced and fully funded.

Citations and Comments

[i] No Author. HNBA, *About Us*. https://hnba.com/aboutus/#:~:text=The%20Hispanic%20National%20Bar%20Association,United%20States%20and%20its%20territories.
[ii] Budiman, Abby. Pew Research Center, *Key Findings About U.S. Immigrants*. https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2020/08/20/key-findings-about-u-s-immigrants/.
[iii] Passel, Jeffrey S. and Cohn D'Vera. Pew Research Center. *Mexican Decline to Less Than Half of U.S. Unauthorized Immigrant Population for the First Time*. https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2019/06/12/us-unauthorized-immigrant-population-2017/.
[iv] Peri, Giovanni and Zaiour, Reem. Center for American Progress, *Citizenship for Undocumented Immigrants Would Boost U.S. Economic Growth*. https://www.americanprogress.org/article/citizenship-undocumented-immigrants-boost-u-s-economic-growth/.