

1 [Supporting H.R. 5161, the “Commission on Mexican-American Removal during 1929-1941  
2 Act”]

3 **Resolution supporting H.R. 5161, the “Commission on Mexican-American Removal**  
4 **during 1929-1941 Act.”**

5  
6 WHEREAS, United States Congresswoman Hilda L. Solis (D-CA) introduced on April  
7 6, 2006, H.R. 5161, or the “Commission on Mexican-American Removal during 1929-1941  
8 Act”; and,

9 WHEREAS, The Commission would mark the first official study of a dark period in U.S.  
10 history that saw as many as 2 million U.S. residents of Mexican heritage, some of them U.S.  
11 citizens, forcibly removed to Mexico or harassed into emigrating to Mexico; and,

12 WHEREAS, The period of Mexican removal is mentioned very little if at all in the ten  
13 most commonly used U.S. history textbooks for middle and high school students; and,

14 WHEREAS, The stated purpose of the removal of Mexican-Americans during the  
15 Great Depression was, according to the authorities at the time, to keep scarce jobs for “real  
16 Americans” rather than Mexican-Americans; and,

17 WHEREAS, Mexican-Americans were deported and harassed all over the United  
18 States, including Illinois, Michigan, Texas, Arizona, New York, New Mexico and California;  
19 and,

20 WHEREAS, Some of those deported from the United States during this period had  
21 served in the U.S. military during World War I; and,

22 WHEREAS, During the Great Depression, Mexican-Americans faced a wide variety of  
23 hostile acts from all levels of government, including raids in public places, the withholding of  
24 jobs by governments and private companies, the denial of public aid, and forced departures  
25 in guarded trains or cars; and,

1           WHEREAS, On October 7, 2005, California State Senator Joe Dunn’s bill expressing  
2 an apology on behalf of California for its role in the removal of Mexican-Americans during the  
3 Great Depression became law; and,

4           WHEREAS, H.R. 5161 has the support of the National Council of La Raza, the  
5 National Association of Latino Elected Officials, the Mexican American Legal Defense and  
6 Education Fund, and the American GI Forum, among many other groups; and,

7           WHEREAS, The history of Mexican removal during the Great Depression serves as a  
8 cautionary tale considering the passage by the House of Representatives of a bill that would  
9 make it a felony to be an undocumented resident of the United States; now, therefore, be it

10           RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco  
11 supports H.R. 5161, or the “Commission on Mexican-American Removal during 1929-1941  
12 Act”; and, be it

13           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors shall send copies  
14 of this resolution to Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi and Senators Barbara Boxer and Dianne  
15 Feinstein.

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