

1 [Student Adjustment Act H.R. 1684]

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3 **Resolution urging the California Congressional delegation to pass the Student**
4 **Adjustment Act (H.R. 1684) which authorizes the cancellation of removal and the**
5 **adjustment of status for certain immigrant youths who are college bound and are long**
6 **term United States residents and permit States to determine State residency for**
7 **purposes of higher education without regard to immigration status.**

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9 WHEREAS, The United States Supreme Court has determined that every state has a
10 constitutional obligation to provide free public primary and secondary education to all children
11 residing within their borders regardless of their immigration status; and,

12 WHEREAS, Federal standards and accountability requirements imposed on
13 elementary and secondary education institutions necessarily entail a federal commitment to
14 education, including the assurance of meaningful access to higher education; and,

15 WHEREAS, California, on average, invests upward of \$7,000 each year for each of its
16 public school students; and,

17 WHEREAS, Each year 65,000 undocumented students, who have lived in the United
18 States for over five years, graduate from American high schools; and,

19 WHEREAS, Most of these children, having been raised and educated in the United
20 States, view themselves as “Americans” and have the same dreams, goals and aspirations as
21 other American children; and,

22 WHEREAS, A high school diploma and the lack of legal immigration status condemn
23 undocumented students to a life of underemployment, instability and unfulfilled potential; and,

24 WHEREAS, These students face overwhelming obstacles in accessing higher
25 education due to their immigration status, which makes them ineligible for federal financial aid

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1 and requires them to pay out-of-state tuition for those attending state universities despite their
2 long-term residency within our country; and,

3 WHEREAS, Undocumented immigrants make vital contributions to the economic
4 stability and cultural richness of the United States, yet remain vulnerable to exploitation,
5 victimization and stigmatization as long as they are denied legal immigration status and
6 meaningful access to higher education; and,

7 WHEREAS, Access to higher education will allow these students to break the bonds of
8 poverty, to raise the level of esteem in which they are held by our society and to make full
9 contribution to our country's civic, political and economic well-being; and,

10 WHEREAS, The Student Adjustment Act (H.R. 1684) would remedy this situation by
11 allowing undocumented students who have lived in the United States for at least five years,
12 are enrolled in the 7th grade or above, and are under 21 years of age, to legalize their
13 immigration status, thereby making them eligible for Federal financial aid, and allow states to
14 consider these students as state residents for tuition purposes at state universities; and,

15 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco has declared and reaffirmed itself
16 as a " City of Refuge" for peoples from all nations regardless of their race, religion or
17 immigration status; and,

18 WHEREAS, The Immigrant Rights Commission passed a resolution urging the Board
19 of Supervisors to support the Student Adjustment Act (H.R. 1684) on April 14,2003; now,
20 therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors fully supports the passage of the Student
22 Adjustment Act (H.R. 1684); and be it

23 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the California
24 Congressional delegation to support the passage of the Student Adjustment Act (H.R. 1684).
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Page 2
7/27/2011

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