

1 [Urging Federal Action on Comprehensive Immigration Reform]

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3 **Resolution urging suspension of further deportations of undocumented immigrants,**
4 **extension of the “Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program,” and an end to the**
5 **firings of undocumented workers.**

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7 WHEREAS, On April 15, 2013, The U.S. Senate Bi-Partisan Committee on Immigration
8 Reform proposed legislation to fix our country’s broken immigration system; and

9 WHEREAS, According to the Pew Hispanic Center there were 1.1 million
10 undocumented immigrants living in the United States in 2011; and

11 WHEREAS, California is home to approximately 10.3 million immigrants of which
12 approximately 2.6 million are unauthorized to live in the U.S.; and

13 WHEREAS, Deportations have reached record levels under President Obama, rising to
14 an annual average of nearly 400,000 since 2009; and

15 WHEREAS, According to Congress Members Rand M. Grijalva and Yvette Clarke,
16 although the Obama Administration reportedly prioritized deporting only criminals, many
17 individuals with no criminal history have been deported; and

18 WHEREAS, Increased deportations and a continuation of a broken immigration system
19 exacerbate the living conditions of U.S. citizen children whose parents have been deported;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, Separation of children from their parents, irrespective of immigration
22 status, always results in severe consequences for young children who are left with no parental
23 guidance or care and a highly unstable financial situation; and

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1 WHEREAS, As immigration continues to be at the center of national debate, President
2 Obama and Congress must implement a more humanitarian immigration policy that keeps
3 families together and respects the right of all workers to support their families; and

4 WHEREAS, Many members of Congress recently signed a letter requesting that
5 President Obama suspend further deportations and extend the Deferred Action for Childhood
6 Arrivals (DACA) program; and

7 WHEREAS, On April 22, 2013, the Immigrant Rights Commission issued a statement
8 voicing its concern about the shift away from family reunification, the unprecedented
9 expansion of border enforcement, the threats to workers due to the continuation of the E-
10 Verify program, and significant challenges that would result from proposed fee increases and
11 new education and language requirements; and,

12 WHEREAS, The proposed bill would eliminate sibling-based visas, making it harder for
13 families to petition for their adult married children, continue the discrimination in immigration
14 law against LGBT Americans and their foreign-born partners, and severely compromise our
15 immigration system's historic commitment to family reunification; and

16 WHEREAS, With new employment requirements, the proposed bill supports visas for
17 high-skilled workers at the expense of low-wage earners who provide essential services, pay
18 taxes, and contribute to the economy, and unnecessarily pits two classes of immigrant
19 workers who should both be embraced by our country; and

20 WHEREAS, New proposed requirements for English-Language proficiency presents
21 significant barriers and economic burdens to many aspiring newcomers, so waivers as they
22 currently exist should continue for those for whom these requirements are unnecessarily
23 onerous; and

1 WHEREAS, Over 1,000 undocumented workers have been fired from their jobs in San
2 Francisco – including hundreds of janitors – by means of I-9 audits and the use of the E-Verify
3 system, both of which are methods for enforcing employer sanctions; and

4 WHEREAS, Firing these workers has caused immense hardship on San Francisco
5 families and children, driving them into the underground economy, increasing unemployment,
6 poverty, and homelessness and creating an atmosphere in which workers are fearful of
7 protesting low wages and bad work conditions; and

8 WHEREAS, President Obama and his administration have the power to discontinue
9 this brutal method of enforcing immigration law by ending the practice of using I-9 audits and
10 E-Verify to identify workers without documents in the workforce, send those lists of workers to
11 employers, and order employers to fire them; and

12 WHEREAS, San Francisco is home to a large number of undocumented immigrants
13 from all parts of the world, and the City should make it a priority to keep families together and
14 continue to press Congress and President Obama for a solution to our broken federal
15 immigration system that includes a fair legalization program and an end to employer
16 sanctions; so let it be

17 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors joins the Labor Council in calling on the
18 Obama Administration to take action to suspend further deportations of undocumented
19 immigrants with no serious criminal history; extend the DACA program to all eligible
20 undocumented members of immigrant families; and end the firings of undocumented workers
21 by ending the I-9 audits and the use of the E-Verify system; and

22 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors joins the San Francisco Labor
23 Council in recommending that the City of San Francisco include in its 2013-2014 Federal
24 Legislative Program support for federal administrative action to suspend further deportations
25 of undocumented immigrants with no serious criminal history; extend the DACA program to all

1 eligible undocumented members of immigrant families; and end the firings of undocumented
2 workers through the use of the I-9 audits and the E-Verify system.

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