[Urging Federal Action on Comprehensive Immigration Reform]

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Supervisors Chiu, Campos, Wiener, Cohen, Yee, Mar, Kim, Avalos

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, New proposed requirements for English-Language proficiency presents significant barriers and economic burdens to many aspiring newcomers, so waivers as they currently exist should continue for those for whom these requirements are unnecessarily onerous; and
WHEREAS, Over 1,000 undocumented workers have been fired from their jobs in San Francisco – including hundreds of janitors – by means of I-9 audits and the use of the E-Verify system, both of which are methods for enforcing employer sanctions; and

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

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

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

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

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors joins the San Francisco Labor Council in recommending that the City of San Francisco include in its 2013-2014 Federal Legislative Program support for federal administrative action to suspend further deportations of undocumented immigrants with no serious criminal history; extend the DACA program to all
eligible undocumented members of immigrant families; and end the firings of undocumented workers through the use of the I-9 audits and the E-Verify system.
Resolution urging suspension of further deportations of undocumented immigrants, extension of the "Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program," and an end to the firings of undocumented workers.

January 28, 2014 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED
Ayes: 11 - Avalos, Breed, Campos, Chiu, Cohen, Farrell, Kim, Mar, Tang, Wiener and Yee

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 1/28/2014 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, or time waived pursuant to Board Rule 2.14.2, became effective without his approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board