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Resolution Urging Suspension of Any Further Deportations of Undocumented Immigrants, Extending the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program and Ending the Firings of Undocumented Workers

WHEREAS, according to the Pew Hispanic Center, in 2011, there were 11.1 million undocumented immigrants living in the United States; 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 Raul M. Grijalva and Yvette Clarke, although the Obama Administration reportedly prioritized deporting only criminals, many individuals with no criminal history have been consistently deported; and

WHEREAS, increased deportations and a continuously 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

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, 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, many members of Congress recently signed a letter requesting President Obama to suspend any further deportations and extend Deferred Action; 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 fear to protest low wages and bad 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, and then sending lists of those workers to employers, ordering employers to fire them; and

WHEREAS, San Francisco is home to large number of undocumented immigrants from all parts of the world, the City should therefore 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;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Labor Council call on the Obama Administration to take action to (1) suspend any further deportations of undocumented immigrants with no serious criminal history, (2) extend Deferred Action to all eligible undocumented members of immigrant families, and (3) end the firings of undocumented workers by ending the I-9 audits and the use of the E-Verify system; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Labor Council call on the S.F. Board of Supervisors to adopt this resolution, so that, with the concurrence of the Mayor, the City of San Francisco includes in its 2013-2014 Federal Legislative Program support for administrative action to (1) suspend any further deportations of undocumented immigrants with no serious criminal history, (2) extend Deferred Action to all eligible undocumented members of immigrant families, and (3) end the firings of undocumented workers by ending the I-9 audits and the use of the E-Verify system.

Submitted by Olga Miranda, SEIU Local 87; Alan Benjamin, OPEIU Local 3; and Frank Martin del Campo, SF LCLAA and adopted unanimously by the San Francisco Labor Council on January 13, 2014.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tim Paulson", with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Tim Paulson
Executive Director