WHEREAS, California State Governor Gray Davis approved into law in 2001 Assembly Bill 540, that allows undocumented students who meet certain requirements to pay in-state tuition at California’s public colleges and universities, providing much needed and unprecedented access to California community college education; and

WHEREAS, at City College of San Francisco, AB540 students have fostered student leadership, commitment to other undocumented and immigrant students, and advocated for resources to help ensure their own successes; and

WHEREAS, in 2010, City College student leaders, clubs, faculty, and non-profit organizations interested in helping AB540 students helped to create the Voices of Immigrants Demonstrating Achievement (V.I.D.A.) Resource Center, an extraordinary accomplishment considering that it is the first resource center of its kind; and

WHEREAS, V.I.D.A provides a place where AB540 students and their allies can meet; discuss pertinent issues such as school and immigration policies; learn to build networks and develop friendships; get academic and peer support such as tutoring; and get connected to essential resources for student success; and

WHEREAS, labor has supported AB540 as well as both the California Dream Act and the National Dream Act as essential pathways to educational access and support for immigrants and their families and communities; and

WHEREAS, Labor recognizes the importance of educational attainment for undocumented students because they are a significant part of the San Francisco community and their families contribute to the San Francisco economy; and

WHEREAS, V.I.D.A is holding its first annual Graduation Commencement Ceremony at CCSF on May 17th, 2013, an empowering event to celebrate achievement with families, friends, and community; and

WHEREAS, a V.I.D.A. graduation will provide examples of courage to current and future CCSF students, allowing students to be role models, including for undocumented SFUSD students who will be present;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Labor Council co-sponsor the first annual VIDA graduation for undocumented CCSF graduates with emotional, outreach, and economic support; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Labor Council forward this resolution to its affiliates and other interested parties for additional education and support.


Respectfully,

Tim Paulson
Executive Director

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