

Template *RESOLUTION*

Resolution Declaring October 18-22, 2021 as Undocumented Student Action Week

RESOLUTION OF

Number

WHEREAS, more than 2 million undocumented immigrants of all nationalities and backgrounds call California home, including more than 183,000 Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients; and

WHEREAS, California has uplifted and empowered undocumented immigrants to seek a better life by providing access to public services and extending protections through sanctuary laws; and

WHEREAS, undocumented immigrants have historically faced racism, poverty, language and other barriers restricting access to higher education, limiting their ability to find better work and provide for their families; and

WHEREAS, the passage of Assembly Bill (AB) 540, authored by the late Assemblymember Marco Antonio Firebaugh and signed by former Governor Gray Davis on October 12, 2001, declared that long-term California residents, regardless of their citizenship status, may pay in-state fees at California public colleges and universities; and

WHEREAS, approximately 85,500 undocumented students, including 72,000 California Community College students, benefit from AB 540 today; and

WHEREAS, AB 540 expanded opportunities for a college education and reduced opportunity gaps for undocumented students by removing the burden of out-of-state tuition; and

WHEREAS, the California Community Colleges are committed to serving all students, regardless of their immigration status, and providing them with the supports, resources, and opportunities to pursue their educational goals; and

WHEREAS, in 2017 the Trump's Administration's attempt to rescind DACA caused a rise in political tensions and antagonistic views regarding immigrants and spurred the creation of the annual California Community Colleges Undocumented Student Action Week (USAWS), focused on advocating for policy change and resources to better support our undocumented students; and

WHEREAS, the Fifth Annual USAWS will bring together UndocuLiaisons (Dreamer Liaisons AB 1645), administrators, faculty, and students across 116 colleges to engage in state, federal, and local action to support undocumented students in their goal of earning a college education; and

WHEREAS, collective budget and legislative advocacy during USAWS has led to funding for Undocumented Resource Centers and UndocuLiaisons, the creation of the Immigration Legal Services Project, the expansion of AB 540 eligibility, and the protection of DACA; and

WHEREAS, this year's USAW will focus on building broad awareness about the ways in which institutional, state, and national leaders can continue supporting undocumented students and fulfill the spirit of AB 540; and

WHEREAS, students, faculty, administrators, staff, and UndocuLiaisons will also engage in a joint advocacy effort to urge Congress to adopt comprehensive immigration reform and implement greater educational supports for undocumented students; and

WHEREAS, President Biden's *Build Back Better Agenda* proposes a pathway to citizenship for undocumented students and expands access to federal financial aid, which will enable more undocumented students to pay for college, complete their studies, and contribute far more greatly to the economy; and

WHEREAS, President Biden's *Build Back Better Agenda* will ensure a stable and welcoming future for undocumented students by allowing them to achieve their higher education goals and become fully participating members of their communities; and

WHEREAS, the California Community Colleges must continue to combat persisting inequalities among this underserved population, develop pathways that foster access, equity, and inclusion, and advocate fiercely for the necessary policies and resources; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the
relentlessly support college access, inclusion, community, and success for all undocumented students; and, be it further

RESOLVED that the
recognizes October 12, 2021, as the 20-year anniversary of AB 540; and, be it further

RESOLVED that the
urges all faculty, staff, administrators, and students to celebrate the significance of AB 540 in empowering undocumented students to pursue a college education; and, be it further

RESOLVED that the
will participate in Undocumented Student Action Week and cultivate policies, procedures, and best practices to support undocumented students in their pursuit of a college education; and, be it further

RESOLVED that the
calls on Congress to adopt comprehensive immigration reform and provide financial resources for undocumented students through budget reconciliation.

Date:

Name:

Title:

District: