Resolution to Oppose the "Racial Privacy Initiative", a proposed California proposition.

July 28, 2002

Whereas, the American Civil Rights Coalition is sponsoring the "Racial Privacy Initiative" for vote by Californians as a statewide initiative;

Whereas, if approved, this state constitutional amendment would bar the collection of data with regard to ethnicity, race and national origin in the State of California;

Whereas, this important data is collected by physicians, educators, law enforcement agencies, numerous governments and private entities for legitimate purposes, including research, policy making and provision of services.

Whereas, such data is essential in order for the State of California and local governments to make sound and fair determinations about the needs of its diverse constituency and service population; engage in medical research and disease prevention, as well as fully and fairly provide medical services; ensure equal access to education, jobs, government contracts, benefits and services; administer local, state and federally mandated programs; and to address continuing social problems such as hate crimes and discrimination.

Whereas, such data is essential to the enforcement of the United States civil rights laws which protect against discrimination and ensure equal opportunity for all Americans;

Whereas, Organization of Chinese Americans is a non-profit, non-partisan national organization dedicated to advocating for the civil rights of Chinese Americans and all Americans;

Whereas, Organization of Chinese Americans believes that equal justice is not served by cloaking continuing societal inequality in the dark shadows of ignorance; but rather by shining light on these problems through the open and transparent collection and analysis of all data;

Whereas, polling by the Field Institute, commissioned by the proponents of the Racial Privacy Initiative, shows that Asian Americans in California were solidly opposed to the Racial Privacy Initiative;

Whereas, the Organization of Chinese Americans is on record as opposing the Racial Privacy Initiative for the reasons stated above;

Be it resolved, That the National Board of the Organization of Chinese Americans reaffirms its opposition to the Racial Privacy Initiative sponsored by the American Civil Rights Coalition and resolves to take an active role in efforts to defeat this initiative in California and in any other state where it or a comparable initiative appears on the ballot.