RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION OF THE CLEAR ACT  Passed February 1, 2004

WHEREAS  The Organization of Chinese Americans (OCA) continues to strive toward fulfilling the hopes and aspirations of Chinese Americans and Asian Pacific Americans in the United States, and

WHEREAS  OCA recognizes that immigration is an integral part of the United States’ history and progress, and

WHEREAS  OCA supports anti-crime legislation that is fair and respectful of individual civil liberties, and

WHEREAS  OCA supports immigrants’ rights to fair treatment and equal protection under the laws of the United States Constitution, and

WHEREAS  The Clear Law Enforcement for Criminal Alien Removal Act (CLEAR Act) poses dangers to the efficiency of our criminal justice system, and

WHEREAS  The CLEAR Act burdens state and local police with the responsibilities to enforce all federal immigration laws, for which they do not have the resources to carry out, and

WHEREAS  The CLEAR Act will undermine efforts that the law enforcement has made to establish trusting relationships with ethnic and immigrant communities to help with fighting and solving crime, and

WHEREAS  The CLEAR Act does not contain provisions for training local law police on enforcing immigration laws, and

WHEREAS  The CLEAR Act will overburden state and local governments because failure to participate in the new policies and requirements will mean loss of federal dollars; and

WHEREAS  The CLEAR Act would endanger many battered immigrant women and undermine federal protections that were specifically crafted in the Violence Against Women Act to ensure that immigrant women would not fear deportation if they reported abuse to law enforcement;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that OCA opposes passage of the CLEAR Act.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that OCA supports the federal government’s efforts to preserve national security.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that OCA opposes legislation that would jeopardize the basic individual civil rights of immigrants.