The Organization of Chinese Americans Resolution on Anti-Immigrant Legislation

Whereas, the United States, the greatest democracy in the world, is a nation built by immigrants;

Whereas, the Organization of Chinese Americans resolved on July 17, 1993 that it would stand "firmly opposed to efforts to use the recent immigrant smuggling as a vehicle to curb existing asylum and family-based immigration laws";

Whereas, recent highly publicized events regarding undocumented immigrants have fueled a rise in anti-immigrant, both legal and illegal, sentiment;

Whereas, attitudes towards immigrants in the United States historically have run parallel to the economic well-being of the United States, and presently, immigrants are targeted as scapegoats for economic problems;

Whereas, Asian Pacific Americans, no matter how long their families have been in the United States, are often regarded as "foreigners;"

Whereas, the anti-immigrant sentiment has negatively affected all immigrants, regardless of legal status;

Whereas, the anti-immigrant sentiment has prompted the United States Congress and state legislatures to introduce and/or pass legislation whose purposes are to deter illegal immigration, but can negatively impact the entire legal immigrant community;

Whereas, the anti-immigrant sentiment also has prompted the United States Congress and state legislatures to introduce and/or pass legislation that directly and negatively affects the welfare of legal immigrants through the denial of current benefits;

Whereas, studies demonstrating the benefits of immigration have been unfairly overshadowed by studies demonstrating the potential liabilities of immigration;

Be it resolved that, The Organization of Chinese Americans firmly opposes any federal, state or local legislation that negatively impacts immigrants;

Be it also resolved that, The Organization of Chinese Americans continues to staunchly support the rights of all undocumented immigrants to full due process under national and international law;

Be it also resolved that, the Organization of Chinese Americans will continue to seek the leadership of government at all levels in condemning anti-immigrant sentiment;

Be it also resolved that, The Organization of Chinese Americans vehemently condemns any actions committed on behalf of anti-immigrant sentiment;

And be it finally resolved that, The Organization of Chinese Americans will fervently continue to educate all Americans about the contributions of immigrants.

Passed by the OCA National Board, February 26, 1994.