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3 **Statement of Support for Commonsense Immigration Reform**  
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5 Endorsed March 2014  
6 Amended January 2018  
7 Amended January 2019  
8 Amended February 2022  
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11 **WHEREAS**, the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA) is the national  
12 association of Asian Pacific American attorneys, judges, law professors and law students,  
13 representing the interests of over 60,000 attorneys and over 90 national, state, and local Asian  
14 Pacific American bar associations; NAPABA members include solo practitioners, large firm  
15 lawyers, corporate counsel, legal service and non-profit attorneys, and lawyers serving at all  
16 levels of government; and NAPABA is committed to addressing civil rights issues confronting  
17 Asian Pacific American communities and people of color;

18 **WHEREAS**, the United States was founded by immigrants who traveled from around the  
19 world to seek a better life and contribute to the continued success of this country;  
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21 **WHEREAS**, the United States immigration system should uphold our nation's basic values of  
22 family unity, political and religious freedom, economic opportunity, and fairness;  
23

24 **WHEREAS**, immigration policy and law have a dramatic impact on the Asian Pacific American  
25 community, as nearly two-thirds of the Asian Pacific American community are foreign-born, and  
26 of the estimated 11.2 million undocumented people in the country, approximately one million are  
27 of Asian origin;  
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29 **WHEREAS**, the United States immigration system, which has torn apart families, created long  
30 visa backlogs, and contributed to the production of high numbers of undocumented foreign  
31 nationals in the United States, is broken and in dire need of comprehensive reform;  
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33 **WHEREAS**, the United States supports proposed legislation that provides a pathway to earned  
34 citizenship for undocumented immigrants currently residing within our country, who work hard  
35 and share values cherished by the United States, and who otherwise pose no threats to the  
36 national security of our nation;  
37

38 **WHEREAS**, family reunification is a core national value and interest that must be respected in  
39 any immigration reform legislation;

40 **WHEREAS**, the United States needs to address the problems of family separation and  
41 immigration quota backlogs in both family and employment preference categories by  
42 implementing fair and efficient processes for the legal immigration system that do not sacrifice  
43 family-based immigration for employment-based immigration, as the two complements one  
44 another and must work in tandem;

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45 **WHEREAS**, the best interest of the United States is served by not only policies that promote  
46 economic growth, but those which reflect the moral values of our nation and its people;

47 **WHEREAS**, family unity, and offering safe-haven to those persecuted and oppressed, represent  
48 such important values and must be part of our overall immigration policy;

49 **WHEREAS**, our interest is further served by granting permanent status to the over 800,000  
50 young Americans who came to the United States as children and who have become contributing  
51 members of our the American society;

52 **WHEREAS**, President Biden has repeatedly called on Congress to pass the American Dream  
53 and Promise Act, which seeks to restore the former 2012 DACA policy by the Obama-Biden  
54 Administration, allowing for hundreds of thousands of young immigrants to remain in the United  
55 States to live, study, and work in our communities. To date Congress has still not acted.  
56 Enacting the American Dream and Promise Act will lead to an opportunity for Congress to  
57 reform key aspects of our immigration system constructively, including legislation to create a  
58 solution for undocumented individuals;

59 **WHEREAS**, foreign nationals in the United States contribute to the United States economy and  
60 labor force to the benefit of the United States;

61  
62 **WHEREAS**, foreign nationals in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics  
63 (STEM) present special opportunities to the United States in innovation and advancement, and  
64 they should be permitted to fast-track their application for U.S. permanent residence;

65  
66 **WHEREAS**, the United States must have a system that permits workers to enter the U.S. legally  
67 to meet the needs of U.S. employers in agriculture, hospitality, and other industries that are  
68 subject to seasonal changes of labor need;

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70 **WHEREAS**, foreign nationals and their families should be able to apply for legal work  
71 authorization work in the United States, through programs such as H-4 EADS,

72  
73 **WHEREAS**, the United States must require the highest standards in immigration detention  
74 centers to ensure that all detainees are treated with dignity, respect, and care, and that they are  
75 not subject to ridicule, abuse, or other forms of maltreatment;

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77 **WHEREAS**, food and medical attention must be provided for and not withheld as a form of  
78 punishment, due process concerns must be addressed, and judicial discretion must be  
79 reinstated;

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81 **WHEREAS**, the United States is in need of improved immigration strategies that will meet the  
82 economic demand and realities of the 21st Century;

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84 **WHEREAS**, it is in the interest of all employers in the United States to have a reliable system by  
85 which they may verify work eligibility of their workers to ensure that they can demonstrate good  
86 faith compliance of hiring only eligible workers and to prevent unscrupulous employers from  
87 taking advantage of undocumented workers, temporary workers, and visa holders; and  
88

## NAPABA Statement of Support for Commonsense Immigration Reform

89 **WHEREAS**, it is in the economic benefit and national interest of the United States to implement  
90 commonsense immigration reform.  
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92 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NAPABA:**  
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- 94 1. Calls for full support of the creation of commonsense immigration reform legislation by  
95 the Congress consistent with the provisions contained in this resolution.  
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- 97 2. Calls for a fair and independent judicial process for those seeking immigration relief and  
98 those in immigration proceedings.  
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- 100 3. Calls for humane and compassionate execution of immigration legislation passed by  
101 Congress; and fair and equitable treatment of those impacted by any immigration reform  
102 legislation.  
103
- 104 4. Opposes the use of any politically contentious or derogatory terms when referring to  
105 immigration policy.  
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- 107 5. Opposes immigration reform legislation that does not include an earned path to  
108 citizenship.  
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- 110 6. Supports administrative relief that will address the harms caused by lack of action by  
111 Congress.  
112
- 113 7. Opposes immigration reform legislation that imposes arbitrary numerical limits, or  
114 otherwise is contrary to core American values as set forth in this resolution;  
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- 116 8. Authorizes its president, board, and staff to communicate the content of this resolution to  
117 its members, affiliates, other bar associations, members of Congress, the Administration,  
118 the press, and others to take steps to implement this resolution, as they deem  
119 necessary.  
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- 121 9. Supports this resolution as a policy priority until it is withdrawn or modified by  
122 subsequent resolution.