

## **UNM GPSA Resolution Supporting Ending of Family Separation and Granting Affirmative Administrative Relief**

WHEREAS, the Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA) at the University of New Mexico represents undocumented immigrant students and other students in mixed immigration status families;

WHEREAS, GPSA understands the intersections of education, employment, health and justice for all graduate and professional students including undocumented immigrant students;

WHEREAS, President Barack Obama has fought for and continues to fight for bipartisan immigration reform;

WHEREAS, Congressional House Republican leadership and its members continue to hold immigration reform hostage, and meanwhile, has only voted to defund the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program for undocumented immigrant youth and young adults;

WHEREAS, the rate of deportations is at a record high, with 1,100 individuals deported daily<sup>1</sup>;

WHEREAS, President Barack Obama has deported 2 million people since taking office<sup>2</sup> with a record breaking 419,384 deportations in 2012 alone<sup>3</sup>;

WHEREAS, an estimated 200,000 deportees in a two-year period were parents of U.S. citizens<sup>4</sup>;

WHEREAS, there are more than 5,000 children in the U.S. child welfare system because a parent has been detained or deported, and a majority of those children are U.S. citizens<sup>5</sup>;

WHEREAS, there are more than 267,000 LGBTQ undocumented immigrants in the United States, who are at increased risk of abuse and mistreatment when placed in immigration detention<sup>6</sup>;

WHEREAS, LGBTQ immigrants who are deported from the United States face heightened risks of discrimination, persecution, and death in their countries of origin;

WHEREAS, torture survivors and victims of human trafficking can be detained for months or years, further aggravating their isolation, depression, and other mental health problems associated with their past trauma;

WHEREAS, there has been an increase of unaccompanied minors detained by border patrol of more than 57,000<sup>7</sup>;

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/john-mccullough/one-government-activity-continues\\_b\\_4037736.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/john-mccullough/one-government-activity-continues_b_4037736.html)

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/01/31/obama-deportation\\_n\\_2594012.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/01/31/obama-deportation_n_2594012.html)

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2014/01/24/record-number-of-deportations-in-2012/>

<sup>4</sup> [http://colorlines.com/archives/2012/12/deportations\\_of\\_parents\\_of\\_us-born\\_citizens\\_122012.html](http://colorlines.com/archives/2012/12/deportations_of_parents_of_us-born_citizens_122012.html)

<sup>5</sup> <http://act.colorlines.com/acton/attachment/1069/f-007a/0/-/-/-/file.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/immigration/news/2014/06/10/91233/lgbt-undocumented-immigrants-face-an-increased-risk-of-hate-violence/>

WHEREAS, enforcement and deportation increasingly involve state and local police in identifying and detaining immigrants allegedly violating federal immigration laws, thereby eroding trust with local police and undermining public safety in immigrant communities;

WHEREAS, 11 million undocumented Americans have been living, contributing, and enriching our country, but live a life of uncertainty in the fear of deportation and family separation<sup>8</sup>;

WHEREAS, the state of New Mexico is home to approximately 85,000 undocumented immigrants<sup>9</sup>;

WHEREAS, GPSA has supported educational access, licenses and other rights for undocumented immigrant graduate and professional students;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that GPSA supports federal immigration reform to provide undocumented immigrants with a pathway to citizenship; we must now protect these individuals from the harmful consequences of legislative inaction and rampant enforcement;

THEREFORE, BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that GPSA calls upon President Barack Obama to act immediately to address this moral crisis harming immigrant families;

THEREFORE, BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that GPSA calls upon the Departments of Homeland Security and Health and Human Services to categorize and uphold the 2008 law in processing unaccompanied minors as child refugees<sup>10</sup>;

THEREFORE, BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that GPSA strongly supports family unity and urges the president to use all means available, including deferred action, to suspend, delay, or dispense with the deportations of immigrants who would qualify for legal status and protection from removal under S. 744, "The Border Security, Economic Opportunity and Immigration Modernization Act," passed on a bipartisan basis by the U.S. Senate in June 2013.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that GPSA urges President Obama to dismantle the policing apparatus that has led to the persecution, criminalization, and incarceration of our community.

AND FINALLY LET IT BE RESOLVED that GPSA also calls on the UNM President and other officials to stand with undocumented immigrant students and students in mixed immigration status families to call for administrative relief and stopping deportations.

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<sup>7</sup> <http://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/southwest-border-unaccompanied-children>

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.pewhispanic.org/2012/12/06/ unauthorized-immigrants-11-1-million-in-2011/>

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.pewhispanic.org/files/reports/133.pdf>

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.state.gov/j/tip/laws/113178.htm>