

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 students, including undocumented immigrant students and has supported educational access, license, and other rights for undocumented students and mixed immigration status families that impact their academic success;

WHEREAS, members of Congress have delayed immigration reform, and have voted to defund the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program for undocumented immigrant youth and young adults;

WHEREAS, the deportation rate reached a record high with 1,100 individuals deported daily in Fiscal Year 2013;<sup>1</sup> although these rates have decreased, they remain high at almost 900 individuals deported daily in the border areas of Mexico and the US;<sup>2</sup>

WHEREAS, President Barack Obama has deported over 2 million people since taking office<sup>3</sup> with a record breaking 419,384 deportations in Fiscal Year 2012 alone;<sup>4</sup>

WHEREAS, an estimated 200,000 deportees in a two-year period who report they were parents of U.S. citizens;<sup>5</sup>

WHEREAS, there are more than 5,000 children in the U.S. child welfare system because a parent has been detained or deported;<sup>6</sup>

WHEREAS, there are more than 267,000 LGBTQ undocumented immigrants in the U.S. who are at increased risk of severe forms of violence;<sup>7</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, undocumented immigrants who are 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 control of more than 57,000;<sup>8</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://bigstory.ap.org/article/apnewsbreak-us-sharply-cutting-deportations>

<sup>3</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>4</sup> <http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2014/01/24/record-number-of-deportations-in-2012/>

<sup>5</sup> [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/12/17/deportation-more-than-200000-parents-removed-citizen-child\\_n\\_2316692.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/12/17/deportation-more-than-200000-parents-removed-citizen-child_n_2316692.html)

<sup>6</sup> <http://act.colorlines.com/acton/attachment/1069/f-007a/0/-/-/-/file.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/immigration/news/2014/06/10/91233/lgbt-undocumented-immigrants-face-an-increased-risk-of-hate-violence/>

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/southwest-border-unaccompanied-children>

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>9</sup>

WHEREAS, the state of New Mexico is home to approximately 85,000 undocumented immigrants;<sup>10</sup>

WHEREAS, the University of New Mexico (UNM) is the state's flagship university;

WHEREAS, undocumented immigrants and U.S. citizens with undocumented legal guardians and family members attend UNM;

WHEREAS, UNM undocumented immigrant students and U.S. citizen students in mixed immigration status families are at risk of being affected physically, mentally, and economically by deportations;<sup>11</sup>

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that GPSA supports federal immigration reform to provide UNM undocumented students and their families with a pathway to citizenship;

THEREFORE, BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that GPSA supports the UNM Dream Team and other student groups in calling 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>12</sup>

THEREFORE, BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that GPSA strongly supports family unity and supports the UNM Dream Team and other student groups in urging President Barack Obama to use means such as 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 supports the UNM Dream Team and other student groups in urging local law enforcement to focus on ensuring the safety of all members of our local community, rather than contributing to the deportation of individuals for otherwise minor infractions.

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

THEREFORE LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that the GPSA Equity and Inclusion Subcommittee will work with the UNM Dream Team to support workshops or other educational initiatives to better inform our university community of these issues.

NOW, THEREFORE LET IT BE FINALLY RESOLVED, that GPSA stands with and supports the UNM Dream team and other student groups who will forward a copy of this resolution to the Executive Office of the President of the United States, the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, the New Mexico Delegation, the New Mexico Governor's Office, the Chief of Police for the City of Albuquerque,

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<sup>9</sup> <http://www.pewhispanic.org/2012/12/06/unauthorized-immigrants-11-1-million-in-2011/>

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.pewhispanic.org/files/reports/133.pdf>

<sup>11</sup> <http://americasvoice.org/blog/new-york-times-op-ed-deporting-parents-detrimental-to-kids/>

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.state.gov/j/tip/laws/113178.htm>

The Chief of Police of the UNM Police Department, the President of the University of New Mexico, the Office of the Provost of the University of New Mexico, the Vice President of Student Affairs, the UNM Dean of Students Office, and the UNM Board of Regents.