MEMORANDUM

TO:

FROM:

DATE: 2021

SUBJECT:

#	Title
1	A Resolution of the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance Relating to Global Vaccine Equity
2	A Resolution of the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance Relating to Hospitality Workers and A Just Economic Recovery for All
3	Resolution of the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance in Support of Texa Essential Knowledge and Skills for Asian American Studies
4	Resolution to Support California State Assembly Bill AB N.490 “The Angelo Quinto Act of 2021”
5	Resolution in Support of Providing Protection to Dominated and Oppressed Castes in the Workforces
6	APALA Resolution Against Military Junta in Myanmar (Burma)
7	Resolution Advocating for Immigration Reform, A Humane Immigration Enforcement, and for a Fair and Efficient Immigration System
8	A Resolution Renewing Support for a New Border Vision and Calling for Immediate Humanitarian Intervention in the Southern Border
9	Oppose the Prison to Deportation Pipeline
10	APALA Convention 2021 Resolution: Collective Solidarity & Call for Abolition
11	Collective Asian Solidarity and Abolition Pledge
12	A Resolution of the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance to Fight the Rise in Anti-Asian Hate Crimes by Building Independent Worker Power and Multi-racial Solidarity

(1) A RESOLUTION OF THE ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN LABOR ALLIANCE RELATING TO GLOBAL VACCINE EQUITY

WHEREAS, the U.S has purchased enough vaccines to vaccinate its population twice over. In contrast, just 0.2% of all vaccines have gone to poor countries. Non-Western countries are facing huge barriers to vaccination and these shortages have led to COVID crises in countries like India, Nepal, Mexico and Brazil. India's death toll is now well over 300,000 and, despite a massive vaccination program, just 3.3% of India's population has been fully vaccinated;

WHEREAS, COVID is a global pandemic and a global recovery cannot happen without a worldwide vaccine solution. Leaving the Global South without vaccines will only lead to the development of new vaccine-resistant COVID variants and the second wave of illness and economic recessions. Despite exemplary success in battling COVID-19, with a death toll of only 35, Vietnam has found a new virus variant that is a hybrid of India and the UK's strains.

WHEREAS, we know that people of color and working-class communities have been hardest hit by the virus in the United States. This will also be true for all new variants and economic downturns. Our communities will bear the brunt, especially in the healthcare fields where our members are overrepresented. In addition, many AAPI people are immigrants with families and loved ones in the countries currently being devastated by the pandemic, further exacerbated by lack of vaccines.

WHEREAS, COVID vaccines that were developed with public funding should not be monopolized for profit. Both Pfizer and Moderna received over $800 million in R&D funding from the U.S. government. Allowing for-profit companies like Pfizer, Johnson & Johnson, and Moderna to monopolize vaccines allows them to profit while worsening federal and state debt. This profiteering results in austerity cuts to important social services--causing our communities to suffer while corporations pull in record profits.

WHEREAS, three companies—Pfizer, Johnson & Johnson, and AstraZeneca—have paid out a combined $26 billion in dividends and stock buybacks to their shareholders over the past year, an amount that could fund vaccination for Africa's entire population of 1.3 billion people.

WHEREAS, the fight against the creation of "open-source" vaccine recipes or waiving vaccine patents has been funded by the 1%. Bill Gates launched the publicly funded ACT Accelerator and its vaccine arm COVAX to ensure that vaccine manufacturers retained intellectual property rights throughout the distribution process. This benefits companies like Johnson & Johnson, who have already enriched themselves by devastating working class communities during the opioid crisis.

WHEREAS, in order to have an equitable and comprehensive global vaccine program urgent change is necessary. Despite the pharmaceutical lobby's claim that "COVID-19 vaccine manufacturers will supply approximately 10 billion doses by the end of 2021, enough to vaccinate the entire current global vaccine eligible population….COVAX, the global program to supply low-and-middle income countries, [has] delivered only one-fifth the number of doses it expected to supply by the end of April."

WHEREAS, although President Joe Biden has expressed support for the waiving intellectual property on COVID-19 vaccines, he has taken little meaningful action to build a consensus with anti-waiver U.S. allies at the World Health Organization or to satisfy his claim that the U.S should become “the world’s arsenal of vaccines.”

WHEREAS, we know that forcing countries in the Global South to buy vaccines from wealthy nations by restricting their legal and material ability to make their own is a form of imperialist exploitation.

WHEREAS, labor unions have been on the frontlines in the fight for fair and manageable working conditions during the risks of the pandemic, and have signed petitions supporting the IP waiver for vaccines by the World Trade Organization. It is time for the labor movement to take further action to stand in solidarity with international workers and protect our communities from an endless COVID crisis.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that APALA joins millions around the world as workers, labor, and human rights activists to speak out against the mass deaths caused by companies and nations prioritizing corporate intellectual property patents over human life.

NOW, THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED that we demand the U.S. government immediately ensure equitable export and distribution of oxygen, oxygen generators, and other desperately needed medical supplies; and hold countries that receive U.S. aid accountable for equitable distribution, particularly in areas ruled by regimes with continuing human rights violations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance calls to expand the intellectual property waiver to include diagnostics, therapeutics, chemicals necessary for vaccine production and medical devices; the mandatory sharing of information crucial to vaccine development by pharmaceutical companies. Pharmaceutical companies must be required to make the information needed to produce vaccinations public via programs such as the World Health Organization’s COVID-19 technology access pool.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that APALA demands the US labor movement, especially the AFL-CIO and international affiliate federations, to act in substantive solidarity with international workers by calling for a global vaccine, lifting barriers to accessing vaccine material etc., not supporting government handouts to COVID profiteers without vaccine equity, and fighting to divest union pensions from Private Equity funds that are profiting by actively blocking global vaccine access.

Submitted on June 7, 2021, by APALA Pittsburgh and APALA Philadelphia written by Naeem Aziz, Lauren Yu, and Jeeva Muhil (UNITE HERE 274)

(2) A RESOLUTION OF THE ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN LABOR ALLIANCE RELATING TO HOSPITALITY WORKERS AND A JUST ECONOMIC RECOVERY FOR ALL

WHEREAS, UNITE HERE International Union membership hails from 178 countries, speaks over 40 languages, and is majority women and low-wage service sector workers;

WHEREAS, a high number of Asian Pacific Islander members work in the hospitality industry in many cities including Boston, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco, Seattle, and in Hawai'i;

WHEREAS, the hospitality industry was one of the hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, with a vast majority of workers suddenly laid off for an indefinite amount of time;

WHEREAS, bosses are implementing "disaster capitalism" to use the pandemic as an excuse to bust the union, a tactic we've seen historically like huge losses in airline catering work in the wake of 9/11;

WHEREAS, we now see hotels cutting hotel jobs like daily housekeeping cleaning, replacing front desk and room service jobs with technology and automation;

WHEREAS, the UNITE HERE International union continues the fight in their upcoming campaigns to ensure that all working people recover economically with dignity and respect;

WHEREAS; building power extends beyond the shop floor and into the community so UNITE HERE is organizing support for democracy reform bills;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that APALA continue to fight in solidarity alongside UNITE HERE International Union members and all hospitality workers;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that there can be no equitable economic recovery without hospitality workers leading the way.

Submitted by

Alex Hing, Trustee, UNITE HERE, Local 6, New York; UNITE HERE International Appointee to the APALA NEB
Tina Chen, UNITE HERE Local 2, Secretary-Treasurer; APALA San Francisco Chapter
Eunice How, UNITE HERE Local 8, APALA Seattle Chapter President
Lisa Lei, UNITE HERE Local 11, APALA LA Chapter President
Qing Wei, UNITE HERE Local 26, APALA Massachusetts Chapter President
Will Lee, UNITE HERE Local 26, APALA Massachusetts Chapter Secretary
Jeeva Muhil, UNITE HERE Local 274, APALA Philly fellow
Ken Liu, Culinary Union/UNITE HERE Local 226, APALA Nevada Chapter
Lisa Grandinetti, UNITE HERE Local 5

June 7, 2021

(3) RESOLUTION OF THE ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN LABOR ALLIANCE IN SUPPORT OF TEXAS ESSENTIAL KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS FOR ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES

WHEREAS, Asian Americans are the fastest-growing racial or ethnic group in the U.S. and our population growth projected to reach 46 million by 2060; and

WHEREAS, course in Asian American Studies offer all students the opportunity to explore the rich history, literature and art, cultures and traditions of Asia and the Pacific Islands in our Texas public schools; and

WHEREAS, research indicates positive educational outcomes for students who engage in ethnic studies, particularly with respect to retention, student engagement, grades, grade point average, passing rates on standardized tests, high school graduation, postsecondary studies, and the development of an inclusive view of society; and

WHEREAS, students of all races and ethnicities enrolling in Asian American Studies enjoys the benefits of this study; and

WHEREAS, Asian American Studies is recognized as an academic discipline in several colleges and universities throughout the U.S., including the University of Houston, and is rooted in more than 151 years of serious knowledge production; and

WHEREAS, Asian American Studies is inclusive of the diverse experiences and contributions of all Asian communities, whose experiences and contributions cannot be fully understood apart from the context of the Asian American population that has richly contributed to the culture and history of the Great State of Texas; and

WHEREAS, Asian American innovations to economics, math, science, history, language arts, music, engineering, and culture have greatly influenced much of western civilization, yet are not sufficiently taught to students in traditional public schools; and

WHEREAS, broad constituencies throughout the State of Texas—including a great number of persons in the member districts of the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance—wish to make possible the study of Asian American Studies for the students of our Texas public schools; and

WHEREAS, courses in Asian American Studies are currently being offered in our Texas public schools, despite the absence, in many cases, of an approved textbook and an approved, coherent curriculum; and

WHEREAS, no state-approved textbook exists for Asian American Studies due to a lack of Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Asian American Studies; and

WHEREAS, many schools and districts in Texas lack the curriculum expertise to develop courses in Asian American Studies; and

WHEREAS, experts in the field of Asian American Studies are offering, their expertise to assist with the development of Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for a state-approved Asian American Studies curriculum; and

WHEREAS, members of the State Board of Education and learning advocates in Texas have long called for greater representation of Asian American Studies in Texas public schools; and

WHEREAS, the recent rise in Anti-Asian American attacks and hate crimes and the ensuing public outcry greatly affect the students of the State of Texas and other students throughout the United States, yet traditional public schools have few methods by which students may voice their opinions and learn of the ongoing struggle for Asian American equality as well as the study of racial and economic disparities in the United States; and

WHEREAS, members of the State Board of Education have spoken of their support for basing a state-approved course in Asian American Studies on an elective course currently taught in Texas Public School Districts; and

WHEREAS, the unwillingness of the State Board of Education to approve a process and timeline for the creation of TEKS for Asian American Studies at this time will be interpreted by many within the context of such difficult conversations as race, privilege, power, stratification, homogenization and inequity;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance requests that the Texas State Board of Education approve posthaste a process and timeline for the development of Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Asian American Studies and other ethnic studies, so that the State of Texas and the students of its public schools will enjoy the benefits that will accrue through the development of such Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Asian American Studies.

Submitted on May 22, 2021, by At-Large Life Member, Francine Ly (Texas)

(4) RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLY BILL AB NO. 490 "THE ANGELO QUINTO ACT OF 2021"

This resolution calls on the APALA organization to support California State Assembly Bill No. 490, "The Angelo Quinto Act of 2021," authored by District 64 Assembly Member Mike Gipson and originally co-sponsored by former District 18 Assembly Member (now California State Attorney General) Rob Bonta, to prohibit law enforcement from authorizing techniques or transport methods that involve a substantial risk of positional asphyxia.

WHEREAS, On December 23, 2020, Antioch police officers restrained Angelo Quinto, a Navy veteran from Northern California, who experienced a mental health crisis while at home with his sister and mother. By the time the police arrived, he was calm and in his mother's arms, not violent, and he had no weapons. The police immediately restrained him face down and proceeded to kneel on his neck for over 4 minutes during which time Mr. Quinto lost consciousness. Angelo Quinto was transported to a nearby hospital, but never regained consciousness and died three days later; and

WHEREAS, On May 25, 2020, Derek Chauvin, a police officer with the Minneapolis Police Department, knelt on George Floyd's neck for 9 minutes and 29 seconds after Mr. Floyd was handcuffed and lying face down continued to say, "I can't breathe." Immediately after, Mr. Floyd entered cardiac arrest and lost his life; and

WHEREAS, Similarly, Angelo Quinto pleaded to the police, "please don't kill me, please don't kill me." These are just two examples out of the countless instances of police officers and other members of law enforcement dangerously and recklessly restraining individuals with no regard for their safety or well-being; and

WHEREAS, The circumstances of Angelo Quinto's death are a stark parallel to George Floyd's, which both exposed gray areas and loopholes in use-of-force policies; and

WHEREAS, As concerned labor and community members, it is our responsibility to take a hard look at our law enforcement's use of force policies, not just locally but at a state and federal level; and

WHEREAS, Existing California state law authorizes a peace officer to make an arrest and use reasonable force to affect the arrest, to prevent escape, or to overcome resistance; and

WHEREAS, Existing California state law prohibits a law enforcement agency from authorizing the use of a carotid restraint or a choke hold, but does not specifically prohibit positional asphyxia; and

WHEREAS, Positional asphyxia means situating a person in a manner that compresses their airway and reduces the likelihood that they will be able to breathe normally; and

WHEREAS, Positional asphyxia includes, without limitation, the use of any physical restraint technique, device, or position that causes a person's respiratory airway to be compressed or impairs the person's breathing or respiratory capacity, including any technique in which pressure or body weight is unreasonably applied against a restrained person's neck, torso, or back, or positioning a restrained person in a prone or supine position without proper monitoring for signs of asphyxia; and

WHEREAS, In-custody death is one of the great tragedies in law enforcement, and one of the most common causes is positional asphyxia; and

WHEREAS, Assembly Member Gipson's bill, Assembly Bill No. 490 (AB 490) will create a uniform statewide policy to prohibit a law enforcement agency from authorizing techniques or transport methods that involve a substantial risk of positional asphyxia; and

WHEREAS, Assembly Member Gipson's bill, Assembly Bill No. 490 (AB 490) will create a uniform statewide California policy to prohibit a law enforcement agency from authorizing techniques or transport methods that involve a substantial risk of positional asphyxia; and

WHEREAS, AB 490 is supported by the ACLU of California, the National Action Network, and the Consumer Attorneys of California; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance (APALA), supports California Assembly Bill No. 490, "The Angelo Quinto Act of 2021," and urges all APALA members to support this resolution and support the Justice for Angelo Quinto Justice for All Coalition; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that APALA will urge the California State Legislature to pass this bill in order to keep our communities safe from police violence, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, the national APALA organization will send letters of support to the California Senate President Pro Tempore, Toni Atkins; California Assembly Speaker, Anthony Rendon; California Governor, Gavin Newsom; and the Bill's primary sponsor, State Assemblymember, Mike Gipson; and the Justice for Angelo Quinto Justice for All Coalition, and the Quinto-Collins family; and

Finally, BE IT RESOLVED, that the APALA organization will support this resolution and adopt it at the APALA National Convention, August 6-8, 2021.

Submitted on June 5, 2021

APALA Alameda Chapter
Kim Geron, President
Josie Camacho, 1st VP
Eleanor Angeles, Secretary

(5) RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF PROVIDING PROTECTION TO DOMINATED AND OPPRESSED CASTES IN THE WORKFORCE

WHEREAS, APALA is the first and best recognized national voice for Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) workers in the US; and

WHEREAS, caste is a form of oppressive social stratification characterized by hereditary status, endogamy, social barriers and exclusion that affects over one billion people across the world. It is based on birth that assigns 'pure' and 'polluted' positionality to groups within an ideologically steeped power framework, which privileges Brahmins at the top of the four-tiered caste hierarchy while excluding 'Dalits,' a term denoting the 'oppressed but resilient,' adopted by the lowest castes (or caste-less) to describe themselves in defiance of derogatory labels such as the "untouchables" or romanticized references such as Gandhi's "Harijan" (God's people); and

WHEREAS, women of all castes face specific forms of discrimination, harassment and violence due to Brahminical Patriarchy, which refers to the intersectionality of caste and gender oppression; and

WHEREAS, Dalits and other caste-oppressed groups within Asian and Asian American communities continue to experience profound injustices including discrimination, harassment, socio-economic inequalities, usurpation of their land, rights, and experience inhumane labor exploitation and brutal violence at the hands of the "upper" castes; and

WHEREAS, the vast majority of migrants from the Indian subcontinent who are from high caste groups or the dominant caste and in positions of power within government, industry and academia may be inclined to reproduce caste-based discrimination and oppressive practices in the US; and

WHEREAS, all of the inequalities associated with caste status have become embedded in all major South Asian American institutions and extend into American mainstream institutions that have significant South Asian immigrant populations; and

WHEREAS, two out of three Dalits who responded to the first-ever 2016 survey about caste, conducted by Equality Labs, an international human rights organization, among over 1,500 South Asians in the US reported to being treated unfairly in their workplace; and

WHEREAS, caste is not an officially recognized "protected class" within the United States federal law, making Dalits and other dominated castes even more vulnerable to harassment, discrimination, violence, and retaliation with impunity for the oppressors; and

WHEREAS, the State of California's Department of Fair Employment and Housing sued Cisco, a technology conglomerate in the San Francisco Bay Area in June 2020 for caste-based discrimination in the workplace; and

WHEREAS, at least 250 Dalit engineers working in firms such as Google, Facebook, Microsoft, Apple, Netflix and dozens of others in Silicon Valley have reported instances of harassment, humiliation, bullying, ostracization, and career-halting interventions by upper-caste colleagues and supervisors, leading a former employee of HCL Technologies to sue the company for caste-based harassment and wrongful termination; and

WHEREAS, Google's Alphabet Workers Union is advocating for caste to become a protected category in Federal law and in the tech industry, affirming that the struggle against caste is a workers' rights issue; and

WHEREAS, a case of flagrant violation of workers' human rights in the construction of a Hindu temple in New Jersey, which became public in May 2021, has illustrated caste-based oppression that makes Dalits susceptible to international labor trafficking and abuse despite existing employment laws; and

WHEREAS, leading educational groups and institutions such as Brandeis University, the California State Student Association (CSSA), and the Academic Senate of the California State University East Bay have resolved to prohibit caste-based discrimination and harassment; and

WHEREAS, APALA is committed to the eradication of discrimination of all kinds at work and within our movement; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that APALA strongly condemns acts of caste-based discrimination, and disenfranchisement in the workplace and beyond; and be it further

RESOLVED, that APALA urges unions and worker organizations to stand in solidarity and with conviction with the dominated and oppressed castes across all communities; and be it further

RESOLVED, that APALA adds 'caste' to the list of protected classes on all print or digital publications and media that state our non-discrimination policy; and be it further

RESOLVED, that APALA endorses the addition of 'caste' to the list of protected classes in the public sector for unobstructed access to good jobs, quality education, social benefits and representation at the Federal, state, county and city levels including, school districts; and be it further

RESOLVED, that APALA requests that the AFL-CIO reviews and revises its position to include "caste" as a protected class in its anti-discrimination policies; and be it further

RESOLVED, that APALA sends a copy of this resolution to the U.S. Ambassador to India and the Indian Ambassador to the U.S. and request a response; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution be distributed to all the chapters and pre-chapters of APALA.

(6) APALA RESOLUTION AGAINST MILITARY JUNTA IN MYANMAR (BURMA)

WHEREAS on February 1, 2021, the Myanmar military staged a coup and overthrew the democratically elected government and later arrested many of its leaders and officials, including the leaders of the popular National League for Democracy, and banned trade unions and worker organizations; and

WHEREAS the overwhelming majority of Myanmar unequivocally oppose the military regime and have taken to the streets at great risk to their lives to fight for their democratic rights, freedoms and liberties – their future – and to restore the democratically elected government; and

WHEREAS the people of Myanmar, led by courageous union leaders, workers and students, mostly women and including women labor union leaders and members of garment-sector unions, as well as civil servants like teachers and doctors, and political leaders have united to support a Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM) and to organize nationwide strikes against the military regime; and

WHEREAS the military has initiated a brutal and bloody crackdown, raiding homes, workplaces and shops, forcing evictions and shooting and killing unarmed civilians, including children and labor union leaders and activists, and arrested thousands of pro-democracy protestors – some of whom have been tortured, sexually assaulted and/or disappeared; and

WHEREAS the people of Myanmar have called on the international community, including the global trade union movement, to isolate the military regime and to support the Civil Disobedience Movement and the newly formed National Unity Government (NUG) led by democratically elected leaders and representatives; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance (APALA) stands in solidarity with the people of Myanmar in their struggle to oppose the military regime, to bring the military to account for its brutal suppression of civilians and other crimes against humanity; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that APALA joins the global trade union movement to continue raising funds to support workers and protesters who have lost jobs, income, homes and family members as they defend their nascent democracy through the only means possible: strikes and street demonstrations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that APALA calls on the U.S. government and United Nations to recognize the newly formed National Unity Government, and to support the efforts of its leaders and representatives to end the bloody violence against the people of Myanmar, release all civilians and workers arrested by the military and police, and support a federal democracy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that APALA calls on the U.S. government to further isolate the military regime and expand its sanctions to include the state-owned Myanmar Oil and Gas

Enterprise (MOGE), which is controlled by the military and provides it with its single largest source of revenue, which is used to suppress the people of Myanmar; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that, in recognition of the economic hardships and the human toll that the people of Myanmar have endured in their quest for their freedom and future, APALA encourages the U.S. government and the United Nations to provide emergency relief to the civilian population, including food and shelter, protection and safety, health care and COVID-19–prevention measures, including vaccines.

Submitted by APALA NEB International Affairs Committee

(7) A RESOLUTION ADVOCATING FOR IMMIGRATION REFORM, A HUMANE IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT, AND FOR A FAIR AND EFFICIENT IMMIGRATION SYSTEM

WHEREAS, over the past two decades, the United States immigration enforcement system has grown into a massive and inhumane deportation machine, militarizing our neighborhoods, and employing detentions centers run by for-profit corporations;

WHEREAS, the Immigration Courts has been manipulated for political purposes through the inherent conflict of interest of the courts being housed within the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) – the same law-enforcement agency tasks to prosecute migrants and non-citizens;

WHEREAS, the integrity of the Immigration Courts and public confidence in its proceedings has been compromised by the Trump's administration's improper interference through the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) under Jeffrey Sessions and William Bar;

WHEREAS, the United States have an obligation to receive and process migrants seeking refuge in our country;

WHEREAS, thousands of refugees and asylum-seekers continue to suffer at the southern border and there is an increasing necessity for humanitarian intervention at the border;

WHEREAS, the immigration system is out of date and long-overdue legislative reforms are necessary to make it responsive to the needs of immigrant families. Prospective immigrants are stuck in visa backlogs and USCIS suffers from massive delays that have resulted in lost jobs and prolonged family separation;

WHEREAS, the Dream and Promise Act of 2021 (H.R. 6), introduced by Representatives Lucille Roybal-Allard, Nydia Velazquez, and Yvette Clarke on March 3, 2021, would grant Dreamers, individuals with Temporary Protected Status (TPS) or Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) a pathway to legal permanent residence and cancel removal proceedings;

WHEREAS, the Dream Act of 2021 (S. 264), introduced on February 4, 2021 in the Senate by Senators Dick Durbin and Lindsey Graham, would provide current, former, and future undocumented high-school graduates and GED recipients a pathway to U.S. citizenship through college, work, or the armed services;

WHEREAS, the "Safe Environment from Countries Under Repression and Emergency Act" or the "SECURE Act" (S. 879), introduced on March 26, 2019 by Senator Chris Van Hollen, would offer protection to TPS and DED holders and provide them with a pathway to lawful permanent resident status;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Citizenship Act (S. 348/H.R. 1177), introduced by Rep. Linda Sanchez and Sen. Robert Menendez, provides a path to citizenship for certain undocumented individuals who meets certain requirements including being continually present in the United States from January 1, 2021, and passing background checks;

WHEREAS, APALA acknowledges that the United States immigration system is deeply rooted in racism that is intended to exclude people of color from the country; that fighting for immigration reform is part of our continuing struggle for racial justice.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance (APALA):

1. Petitions Congress to pass legislation that ensures the efficiency and transparency in the operations of United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS);
2. Calls for immediate reforms that are implemented to guarantee due process in immigration proceedings including the right to counsel;
3. Calls upon Congress to pass legislation creating an independent Immigration Court that is not subject to the influence of the DOJ and the President of the United States;
4. Campaigns for the reduction of funding for detention and the utilization of humane alternatives to detention and to dedicate resources to community-based case management systems;
5. Fights for an end to corporate-run detention facilities and private funding;
6. Demands for humane, fair and orderly procedures to admit and process migrants at the border that would include humanitarian and medical resources;
7. Calls upon Congress to pass legislation that provides a pathway to legal status to people who are undocumented.
8. Initiates efforts to raise awareness about these proposed bills and publicly support legislation that provides immigration relief to undocumented individuals.

Submitted on June 8, 2021 by APALA San Diego Chapter

(8) A RESOLUTION RENEWING SUPPORT FOR A NEW BORDER VISION AND CALLING FOR IMMEDIATE HUMANITARIAN INTERVENTION IN THE SOUTHERN BORDER

WHEREAS, the United States Southern Border Region has a rich history that was made possible by immigrants from around the world, and immigrants and refugees continue to contribute to the economic, social and cultural well-being of the Region;

WHEREAS, the economic, historic and cultural connections between the Southern Border of the United States and Northern Border Region of Mexico are underscored by the families whose members have been connected across this region for hundreds of years before there was a border between the modern countries of the United States and Mexico;

WHEREAS, we as a nation depend on well-functioning borders to expand public safety, protect human life, and welcome newcomers and returning residents to the United States;

WHEREAS, our borders are gateways for trade with the world; as of 2019, Mexico is the largest trading partner of the United States, and in 2018, trade with Mexico totaled an average of nearly $2 billion a day in imports and exports to and from all fifty states.

WHEREAS, the United States loses billions of dollars and thousands of jobs every year due to long wait times at our borders, and the cost is felt across the country in every state that depends on trade with Mexico, now the nation's largest trading partner;

WHEREAS, all people are deserving of assurance of the basic principles of equality, due process, and human rights, guaranteed to every individual, regardless of their status, by the United States Constitution;

WHEREAS, border enforcement authorities in the United States have a long history of abusing communities of color in the border region, including the AAPI community when it pursued Chinese immigrants trying to avoid the Chinese Exclusion Act, guarded the US Department of Justice Center Camps during WWII that housed Japanese immigrants and American citizens, and facilitated the deportation of Japanese American citizens to Japan during WWII;

WHEREAS, the former administration has implemented policies that deny asylum seekers their internationally recognized legal right to seek refuge in this country, that violate the human rights of immigrants, that endanger children and families by placing them in concentration camps, and that continue to oppress people of color;

WHEREAS, while the current administration has rolled back some of the policies of the previous administration, it has not acted fast enough to alleviate the continued suffering of asylum seekers at the border, particularly those who are vulnerable including women, children, individuals who identify as LGBTQ, and those with serious medical condition;

WHEREAS, the Biden Administration has continued to utilize the Title 42 policy to bar entry, expel migrants, and to practically stop processing of asylum seekers at the Southern Border; Title 42 was used by the previous administration, along with other policies such as the Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP), to gut the asylum process in the guise of protecting the country from the COVID-19 pandemic;

WHEREAS, a border-security and enforcement-only approach to the border region has caused irreparable harm to border communities and the AAPI community over the years, and has led to the loss of life and the separation of families;

WHEREAS, migration is a human phenomenon as old as time, is part of nearly every family's story, is a defining feature of a globalized world, and is a source of prosperity, innovation, and sustainable development if governed well, thoughtful border governance should increase opportunities for safe, orderly, and regular migration, and minimize irregular migration;

WHEREAS, APALA passed a resolution during the APALA 14th Biennial Convention that denounced funding for a border wall, recognized the importance of the border region and promoted investing in infrastructure in border communities, and called for Congress to place limits on border enforcement and the powers of federal immigration officials;

WHEREAS, APALA passed a resolution during the APALA 15th Biennial Convention that recognized the importance of the border region and supporting a new vision for the southern border.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance (APALA):

1. Calls on the Biden administration to fast-track humanitarian efforts to alleviate the condition of migrants, including thousands of vulnerable individuals including women, children, members of the LGBTQ community, and those with serious medical condition at the southern border;
2. Condemns the harm caused to families that continue to be separated and to border communities as a result of unchecked border enforcement;
3. Demands that the Title 42 policy implemented at the southern border be rescinded immediately;
4. Stands with border communities in calling for a new border vision that leads with our values, addresses our needs, and adheres to good governance to generate humane and well-functioning borders for the 21st Century;
5. Supports responsible border governance that includes data driven decision-making, consultation with affected communities, transparency to the public, meaningful oversight, and accountability;
6. Calls upon Congress and the President to shift their approach to the border region from one focused on border security and enforcement to one that embraces good border governance that protects human life, expands public safety, and welcomes people at the border, treating everyone with dignity and respect.

Submitted on June 8, 2021 by APALA San Diego Chapter

(9) Oppose the Prison to Deportation Pipeline

WHEREAS, the American War in Southeast Asia resulted in refugee resettlement to the United States of people from Laos among the Hmong, Lao, Vietnamese, Cambodian, Lu-Mien, Khmu, and other ethnic minority groups; and

WHEREAS, these individuals and their families were typically placed in areas in these communities with concentrated poverty, inadequate economic and social supports, violence in their neighborhoods, and under resourced and failing public schools, which increased exposure to other risk factors that lead to criminal activity and the criminal justice system, resulting in Southeast Asian American young people becoming disproportionately involved with gangs and violence, further compounded by high rates of post-traumatic stress disorder from having experienced the Secret War in Laos; and

Whereas more than 15,000 Southeast Asian Americans, many of whom were refugees, live in the United States with a final order of removal and over 2,000 have been deported since 1998;

Whereas many Southeast Asian Americans with a final order of removal are United States residents who are more than 10 years removed from the time of their criminal convictions and have moved on to become pillars of their communities, homeowners, fathers, mothers, caregivers, and tenured employees;

Whereas many of the same refugees have been served deportation orders, many who have no family ties, do not speak the language, or have never lived in their homeland countries; and if deported would face marginalization, violence, or death; and

Whereas there are many Southeast Asians who have already been deported or are facing deportation orders, the following three stories of individuals with roots in California illustrate this reality:

Peter Ng (Oakland, CA), age 61 was deported Hong Kong on April 1, 2021. He had been incarcerated for 42 years, since he was 18. Mr. Ng was found suitable for release in 2019. On the day of his release from prison, he was picked up by ICE and spent 1 year in ICE custody. Mr. Ng was released in 2020 and lived with his family in Oakland, where he was the primary caregiver for his ailing father. Mr. Ng was taken into custody during a routine ICE check in and on April 1. This removal from his household created a crisis of care for his father. He was deported to Hong Kong, where he has no family or resources.

Tien Pham (San Jose, CA) was deported to Vietnam on March 25, 2021. Mr. Pham came to the U.S. as a refugee with his family when he was a child. When he was 17, he was convicted of a crime and served 28 years in prison. Mr. Pham turned his life around while incarcerated. He earned a college degree, became a facilitator for the ethnic studies program, and worked at the San Quentin News. He was released from prison in 2020 and instead of being reunited with his family, Mr. Pham was picked up by ICE. He spent the next 7 months in ICE facilities outside of California, far away from his family, and was deported along with 33 others to Vietnam in 2021.

Sou Liem Saechao (Richmond, CA) was born in a refugee camp in Thailand in 1981. Mr. Saechao's parents, who are Lu Mien fled Laos because they assisted the US government during the Vietnam war. The family relocated to California. At the age of 16 Mr. Saechao was arrested and later sentenced to 25 years to life. While incarcerated he turned his life

around. As a teacher's aide Mr. Saechao helped students get their GED. Mr. Saechou was active in the Ethnic Studies Program. He worked on his personal transformation in the GRIP (Guiding Rage into Power) Program, a year long in depth look at one's childhood and traumas that defined how one reacts and is triggered by their environment. The GRIP program then teaches students how to change their responses and behavior.

Sou Liem Saechao was paroled after 21 years, but instead of being reunited with his family on his release from prison, he was picked up by ICE and held in federal detention. Saechao was told the only way to get out of ICE custody was to sign papers to agree to be deported. He signed the papers and was released from ICE in October 2018 and was finally reunited with his family. Mr. Saechao works as a Site Coordinator Specialist at Family Bridges, an organization that provides short term housing and resources for the houseless population. He volunteers at the Oakland Chinatown Community Center. Mr. Saechao is under order of deportation.

Therefore be it resolved, APALA calls on the Biden Administration and the Homeland Security given the unique circumstances of the Southeast Asian community are considered and put an end to the prison-to-deportation pipeline for refugees and immigrants with decades-old or minor criminal convictions.

Be it resolved, APALA demands that ICE halt deportations of refugees and immigrants with such convictions,

Be it resolved, APALA calls for the Biden Administration to reassess cases in which refugees and immigrants were deported without assessing the humanitarian considerations including family unity and reuniting these individuals with their families.

Be it resolved, APALA calls for the Biden Administration to instead of perpetuating the school to deportation pipeline, instead promote comprehensive policies that safeguard equity and justice for Southeast-Asian-American communities, including in health, education and jobs; and

Be it resolved, APALA calls on Governor Newsom to stop turning people leaving prison over to ICE agents and support the VISION Act (California Assembly Bill 937).

Be it resolved, APALA calls on Governor Newsom to conduct timely reviews of pardon applications of formerly incarcerated people. A pardon would prevent formerly incarcerated people from being deported.

Be it finally resolved, APALA calls on Governor Newsom to seriously consider pardon applications taking into consideration that people who have turned their lives around, are working full time jobs, providing care for elderly family members, volunteering and giving back to their communities.

Submitted by: Jun Hamamoto, Alameda chapter

(10) APALA Convention 2021 Resolution: Collective Solidarity & Call for Abolition

WHEREAS, APALA envisions a society where economic and racial justice prevails, human rights and worker dignity are affirmed, and where a healthy, sustainable planet is able to offer a better life for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, Black, brown, and Indigenous folks, and all communities fighting oppression, and

WHEREAS, APALA has 7 Principles for Collective Liberation: Worker Power, People Power, Racial Justice, Community and (Chosen) Family Values, Home and Sovereignty, Gender Justice and Intergenerational Movement Building, and

WHEREAS, APALA is a leading organization in organizing, politicizing and engaging generations of AAPI organizers and activists with an intersectional framework and analysis that push both the broader AAPI community and labor movement, and

WHEREAS, APALA launched the #NotYourModelMinority Pledge and AAPIs Resist Coalition in 2016, and

WHEREAS, APALA National Executive Board passed a 2020 Black Lives Matter Resolution on August 2, 2020 that called on the organization to become co-conspirators with the Movement for Black Lives, build and deepen investment of the labor movement and other movement partners and engage membership and promote cross racial solidarity, and

WHEREAS, APALA and its members have lifted up the leadership, analysis and work of Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Atlanta, 18 Million Rising, Asian and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Women Lead, Creative Interventions, People's Collective for Justice and Liberation, Red Canary Song and Southeast Asian Freedom Coalition and Survived & Punished, and

WHEREAS, APALA, in order to continue its cutting edge leadership and build on the bold vision and action from its founders through the decades, has an exciting opportunity to join forces on the Collective Asian Solidarity and Abolition Pledge, be it

RESOLVED, that APALA commits to ending the cycle of violence and harm towards Asians in all forms, and

RESOLVED, that APALA understands that white supremacy, cisheteropatriarchy and capitalism are systems that always have and continue to perpetuate violence against our communities, and

RESOLVED, that APALA is clear that power and privilege varies across Asian American and Pacific Islander communities, based on socioeconomic status, religion, immigration status, sexuality and ability/disability, and

RESOLVED, that APALA believes that instead of keeping a privileged few among us safe through hate crime legislation and increased policing -- which we know is a deadly threat to Black lives every day -- that we will fight for true safety and freedom for ALL OF US, and

RESOLVED, that APALA will official sign on as a organizational partner of the Collective Asian Solidarity and Abolition Pledge, and

RESOLVED, that APALA's values do not align with the AFL-CIO's "Public Safety Blueprint for Change" and instead calls upon its members and partners to sign the Collective Asian Solidarity and Abolition Pledge via the 18 Million Rising platform, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that APALA partner with the Anchor Abolition Organizations to identify other opportunities for education and engagement with members and partners, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that APALA will work on creating abolitionist pathways for members and leaders within the organization and in partnership with abolitionist organizations.

Submitted by:
Gregory A. Cendana, National Writers Union, APALA DC Chapter

(11) COLLECTIVE ASIAN SOLIDARITY AND ABOLITION PLEDGE

As Asians and Asian Americans, we commit to ending the cycle of violence and harm towards Asians in all forms.

We understand that white supremacy, cisheteropatriarchy and capitalism are systems that always have and continue to perpetuate violence against our communities. Which means the harm our communities face has everything to do with race, with gender, and with class. We are clear that power and privilege varies across Asian American communities, based on religion, immigration status, sexuality and ability/disability.

The recent mass shootings targeting Asian women who work in massage parlors and Sikh FedEx workers, in the face of increased daily attacks against Asian Americans, sparked a call to #StopAsianHate. These attacks targeted some of the most vulnerable among us. Right now, our broader Asian American movement must make a decision. Will we keep a privileged few among us safe through hate crime legislation and increased policing -- which we know is a deadly threat to Black lives every day -- or will we fight for true safety and freedom for all of us. We believe abolition is the path toward our collective liberation.

We fight for all in our communities including those who are massage parlor or sex workers, undocumented or refugees, evicted or houseless, detained, incarcerated or deported. As Fannie Lou Hamer said, “Nobody’s free until everybody's free.”

We believe that #BuildingSolidarity and centering those directly and disproportionately impacted is critical to justice and liberation.

We are rooted in revolutionary love. We will not allow systems of oppression to divide and conquer us nor the communities that we are a part of and serve. We are not your fetish, racial wedge or model minority.

We follow the analysis and center the leadership of survivor-led and local grassroots organizations who do the organizing, narrative and policy work that make alternate futures possible. Together, we will dream abolition into fruition that encourages us to live values that honor our humanity and self-determination.

We commit as individuals and organizations to transform and end the culture of policing, including the ways in which we embody police-thinking, punitive patterns and carceral ways of being with each other. We will find ways to address harm and conflict that do not include or expand punishment, police and prisons including hate crimes legislation. We will practice conflict transformation, with principled struggle and care.

We seek investment in our communities for healthcare, housing, employment and education and to build community accountability structures that go beyond the broken immigration system, criminal injustice system or policing -- which is rooted in a system of chattel slavery in the United States. Furthermore, we know that US colonialism and imperialism bear responsibility for a country founded on white supremacy, anti-blackness and Indigenous genocide and the ongoing violence perpetrated here and across the globe. Many Asian communities resettled here because the US military was in our homelands.

We commit to sharing resources and power with transparency, equity, and mutuality.

We lean into our own discomfort and turn toward each other as we build movements that can make and hold space with an abolitionist accountability pathway.

We will practice principled ways of community care, transformative justice, and healing from the trauma we have and are experiencing.

(12) A RESOLUTION OF THE ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN LABOR ALLIANCE TO FIGHT THE RISE IN ANTI-ASIAN HATE CRIMES BY BUILDING INDEPENDENT WORKER POWER AND MULTI-RACIAL SOLIDARITY

WHEREAS, APALA works to defend and advocate for the civil and human rights of AAPIs, immigrants and all people of color; and

WHEREAS, hate crimes and incidents of violence or discrimination against Asian Americans rose sharply over the past year, with more than 6,600 reports collected by Stop AAPI Hate between March 2020 and March 2021, and Asian women and girls reporting these hate incidents 2.2 times as often as men; and

WHEREAS, APALA members understand that systemic change is necessary to address racism; and relying on law enforcement does not prevent violence nor change the structural conditions that lead to violence against marginalized communities; and

WHEREAS, APALA's principles of liberation explain how we cannot achieve economic justice without racial justice, necessitating our role as AAPI workers to challenge anti-blackness within the AAPI community, knowing that together with Black, brown, and indigenous communities, we form a more powerful movement towards abolitionism and ending white supremacy; and

WHEREAS, APALA's National Executive Board passed a 2020 Black Lives Matter Resolution on August 2, 2020 that called on the organization to become co-conspirators with the Movement for Black Lives, build and deepen investment of the labor movement and other movement partners and engage membership to promote cross racial solidarity; and

WHEREAS, APALA held a National Labor Town Hall on Anti-Asian Racism with the AFL-CIO on May 12, 2021 to address and provide guidance to combat Anti-Asian bias within the labor movement; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that APALA members will utilize APALA's Labor Toolkit on Anti-Asian Racism to work within their unions, state federations and CLCs to end the treatment of Asian American workers as invisible, disposable, and perpetual foreigners and commit to a vision of inclusion and justice for all workers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that APALA members strongly demand adequate resources that address root causes of anti-Asian bias and resources for violence prevention; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that APALA members resist the model minority myth and perpetual foreigner stereotypes which enables the dehumanization of Asian Americans as well as stems from and contributes to U.S. imperialism and militarism in Asia, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that APALA members reject proposals to address anti-Asian bias that are inherently anti-Black, anti-immigrant, and harmful for the most marginalized in our communities, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that APALA members reject any proposals that expand and rely upon systems of policing and punishment in response to anti-Asian bias

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that APALA members demand bias violence be designated as a public health issue so that public policy interventions can be based on non-criminal legal

research and prevention efforts, meaning no partnerships, contracts, and arrangements between law enforcement and other entities, including data-sharing agreements; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that APALA members fight back against white supremacy which incites violence against us and all people of color by building a multi-racial, mutli-ethnic, multi-generational liberation movement for all workers.

Submitted by Virginia Rodino, APALA Maryland
July 7, 2021