

Resolution in Support of the VISION Act (Carrillo, AB 937)

WHEREAS, refugees and immigrants are a vital part of California's heart and identity, and we recognize the humanity of all people who call our community home;

WHEREAS, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) activity does not serve public and community safety; rather, its presence incites fear and inflicts violence on immigrant communities;

WHEREAS, California's criminal justice system unjustly and disproportionately harms Black, Latinx, Indigenous, and Asian and Pacific Islander American communities;

WHEREAS, with the passing of SB 260, SB 261, SB 1437, AB 1812, which amended paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 1170 of the Penal Code, and Proposition 47, the Legislature and California voters have demonstrated a strong commitment to reforming our criminal justice system and ending mass incarceration;

WHEREAS, despite these reforms, California reinforces systemic racism when its jails and prisons voluntarily and unnecessarily transfer immigrant and refugee community members eligible for release from state or local custody to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) for immigration detention and deportation purposes;

WHEREAS, jails and prisons serve as the main pipeline to fill immigration detention beds, and approximately 70% of people detained in ICE custody, nationally, have been funnelled through our criminal justice system;

WHEREAS, California should not subject these community members to a cruel "double punishment," and disregard their humanity, records of rehabilitation, stable reentry plans, and community support, purely because they are refugees or immigrants;

WHEREAS, ending ICE transfers in California is a reflection of the state's commitment to ending racial injustice and mass incarceration;

WHEREAS, the VISION Act (Assembly Bill 937), authored by Assemblymember Carrillo, prohibits jails, prisons, and other public agencies from funneling community members who are eligible for release to ICE jails where they endure deplorable conditions and face permanent separation from their families and communities;

WHEREAS, through the passing of the VISION Act, California has an opportunity to set a model for the nation and advance a positive vision of a society based on care, healing, and transformation;

WHEREAS, the University of California has failed to adopt sanctuary campus practices to protect its undocumented student population;

WHEREAS, the USAC condemns any use of local and state resources to separate children from their parents and detain and deport millions of parents, neighbors, co-workers, and friends;

WHEREAS, the USAC values all members of our community, embraces compassion, equality, and inclusion, and proudly defends the rights of all residents, including refugees and immigrants.

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the USAC is in strong support of the passing of the VISION Act in California.

LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED, that the USAC stands in solidarity with student organizations working to advocate for the rights of undocumented people, including the Vietnamese Student Union, Asian Pacific Coalition, and IDEAS at UCLA.

LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED, that the USAC urges the University of California to support its undocumented student population in amplifying and uplifting the community's calls for abolition and immigrant justice.