

# RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council; and

WHEREAS, Los Angeles County is home to more than 3.6 million immigrants, including an estimated 800,000 undocumented individuals; and

WHEREAS, the incoming administration has campaigned on threats of increased immigration enforcement and “the largest deportation operation in American history,” while the U.S. Senate is advancing a bill to require the deportation of undocumented immigrants charged with minor crimes; and

WHEREAS, a 2020 report from the Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees stated that immigrants are five times more likely to secure relief from deportation and are less susceptible to unscrupulous immigration practitioners when they have qualified legal representation; and

WHEREAS, from Fiscal Year 2022-2024, the California Department of Social Services provided \$22.5 million through the Removal Defense Program to eligible nonprofit organizations for pro bono immigration removal defense assistance throughout the State; and


WHEREAS, immigrant advocates have stated that the funding was insufficient to support immigrants subject to deportation and in November 2024, more than 250 California immigrant advocate organizations requested \$15 million from State legislators and Governor Newsom for additional immigrant support before the start of the new administration; and

WHEREAS, this additional funding would support rapid response networks, increase legal representation, and expand resources to immigrants in isolated and rural areas; and

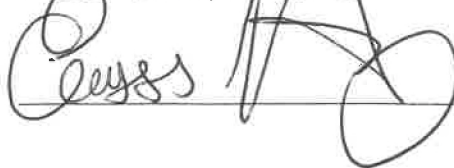
WHEREAS, additional funding for immigrant removal defense would protect against the separation of families, the destabilization of communities and workplaces, and the withdrawal of individuals from civic and social activities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that by adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2025-26 State Legislative Program, sponsorship and support of any legislative and/or administrative action that would increase funding for immigration removal defense in California.

PRESENTED BY:

  
HUGO SOTO-MARTINEZ  
Councilmember, 13<sup>th</sup> District

SECONDED BY:



ORIGINAL

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