



"LCLAA's leadership and members have always stood and will continue to stand at the forefront of the labor movement in protecting their families, their communities, and their unions. ¡Juntos Podemos!"

**LCLAA 20TH NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP CONVENTION
HOUSTON, TEXAS
AUGUST 6-9, 2014**

RESOLUTIONS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

2014 LCLAA CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS

1. RESOLUTION CONDEMNING RAIDING – pg. 4
2. RESOLUTION CALLING ON ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS TO DIVEST FROM PRIVATE PRISONS AND URGING THE US SENATE AND HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEES TO DENY FUNDING FOR THE OPERATION AND CONSTRUCTION OF PRIVATE IMMIGRANT PRISONS – pg. 5
3. SI SE PUEDE: A RESOLUTION FOR A NATIONAL HOLIDAY/DAY OF SERVICE FOR AMERICAN LABOR LEADER CESAR E. CHAVEZ – pg. 8
4. RESOLUTION ON THE EMBARGO OF CUBA – pg. 10
5. RESOLUTION REAFFIRMING LCLAA’S SUPPORT FOR THE UNCONDITIONAL PARDON AND RELEASE OF OSCAR LOPEZ RIVERA – pg. 11
6. RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF U.S. POSTAL WORKERS; DON’T BUY STAPLES – pg. 12
7. RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE’S CLIMATE MARCH – pg. 14
8. RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO THE PROPOSED FEDERAL LEGISLATION TO FAST TRACK THE APPROVAL PROCESS OF FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS BY THE UNITED STATES, AND THE TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP – pg. 15
9. RESOLUTION FOR SCIENCE-BASED CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY NOW – pg. 17
10. RESOLUTION FOR FEDERAL FUNDING FOR WORK FORCE HOUSING – pg. 20
11. RESOLUTION FOR A HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE TO MIGRANT CHILDREN CRISIS – pg. 22
12. RESOLUTION FOR SAFE STAFFING FOR ALL IN HEALTHCARE – pg. 24
13. RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF MODIFYING CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964, ADD FOUR WORDS: SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY – pg. 26
14. RESOLUTION TO PROMOTE THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN/LATINAS/MINORITIES IN STEM FIELDS – pg. 28
15. RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF IRELAND – pg. 30
16. RESOLUTION CALLING FOR ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION TO STOP THE DEPORTATION CRISIS – pg. 31
17. RESOLUTION ON HONDURAS – pg. 33
18. RESOLUTION CALLING FOR JUSTICE FOR SANTIAGO RAFAEL CRUZ – pg. 34
19. RESOLUTION ON THE MISTREATMENT OF WOMEN IN ICE DETENTION CENTERS – pg. 35
20. RESOLUTION ON UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN CROSSING THE BORDER – pg. 37
21. RESOLUTION ON THE RIGHTS OF LATINAS IN THE WORKPLACE – pg. 39
22. RESOLUTION ON WORKPLACE SAFETY RIGHTS – pg. 40
23. RESOLUTION ON ENGLISH LITERACY – pg. 41
24. RESOLUTION ON THE EFFECTS OF GLOBALIZATION ON THE WORKING COMMUNITY – pg. 42

25. RESOLUTION ON RAISING WAGES – pg. 44
26. RESOLUTION ON PRISONS AND MASS INCARCERATION – pg. 46
27. RESOLUTION ON THE LENDING CRISIS – pg. 49
28. RESOLUTION CONDEMNING RAIDING – pg. 51
29. RESOLUTION ON STRENGTHENING PUBLIC EDUCATION TO MEET THE NEEDS OF ALL CHILDREN – pg. 53
30. RESOLUTION FOR NO LIFE SENTENCES WITHOUT OPPORTUNITY FOR PAROLE – pg. 56
31. RESOLUTION CONDEMNING HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND SEX TRAFFICKING OF CHILDREN – pg. 58
32. RESOLUTION ON INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN CRISIS AT THE U.S. BORDER – pg. 60
33. RESOLUTION TO RESTORE THE VOTING RIGHTS OF ALL AMERICANS – pg. 62

1. RESOLUTION ON CONDEMNING RAIDING

WHEREAS, destructive, time consuming, and resource depleting raids on unions by AFL-CIO affiliated, non-affiliated Unions and Associations are increasing; and

WHEREAS, such raiding activity undermines efforts to promote shared prosperity and weakens the ability of Unions to establish and maintain wage and benefit standards for working men and women and their families; and

WHEREAS, such raiding activity is exploited by corporations who seek to undermine bona fide labor unions and the benefits they provide their members further widening the gap in income equality; and

WHEREAS, the entire labor movement must recognize damage done to workers when labor organizations are expending resources fighting each other rather than promoting virtues of trade unionism,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement calls upon all labor bodies in which there are LCLAA Chapters, to work together to encourage solidarity from other labor organizations, affiliated or non-affiliated with the AFL-CIO, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the LCLAA Convention condemns the actions of labor organizations such Federation of Public Service Employees (FPSE) that do not promote solidarity building, organizing the unorganized and labor union growth for the good of the labor movement.

Respectfully Submitted by the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers

REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE: _____

CONCURRENCE: _____ X _____

NON-CONCURRENCE: _____

2. RESOLUTION CALLING ON ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS TO DIVEST FROM PRIVATE PRISONS AND URGING THE US SENATE AND HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEES TO DENY FUNDING FOR THE OPERATION AND CONSTRUCTION OF PRIVATE IMMIGRANT PRISONS

WHEREAS, the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement (LCLAA) has a history of opposing all unjust abuse of immigrants and people of color; and

WHEREAS, there exist no portfolio screens shielding public institutions' investments from placement in the private prison industry; and

WHEREAS, public employee and/or teacher retirement systems in Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, New York, Oregon, and Texas, currently hold millions of shares of private prison industry stock making our futures dependent on mass incarceration and detention of immigrants; and

WHEREAS, Corrections Corporation of America (CCA) and the GEO Group (GEO) own or manage over 70% of the private prison beds in the United states, and

WHEREAS, CCA and GEO have both been found liable for wrongful deaths, and sexual and other physical abuse in scores of court cases; and

WHEREAS, the private prison industry is opposed to workers' exercise of the universally recognized right to organize and belong to unions of their choice; and

WHEREAS, the private prison industry and its financial institutional investors have successfully lobbied for immigration enforcement policies that resulted in the detention of over 2 million immigrants in the past 5 years; and

WHEREAS, the private prison industry's lobbyists successfully influenced Congress to kill comprehensive immigration reform in 2013; and

WHEREAS, the private prison industry continues to expand its lobbying efforts and campaign contributions, contributing approximately \$45 million in the last decade to state and federal governments; and

WHEREAS, the private prison industry is entirely dependent on government contracts to incarcerate increasing numbers of immigrants and people of color to maintain financial viability for its investors; and

WHEREAS, the United States has a private prison bed capacity of over 130,000 beds, and most private prison contracts include contract clauses guaranteeing maximum occupancy; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress mandated that 34,000 immigrant detention beds be filled each night in 2013; and

WHEREAS, detained immigrants are prosecuted as criminals with prison sentences, to be served in private prisons, ranging from 180 days to over 10 years for infractions that were handled primarily by the civil legal system resulting in fines rather than incarceration prior to the Bush-Cheney Administration; and

WHEREAS, most detained immigrants, including children, survivors of torture, and refugees do not have an attorney because immigration law does not guarantee immigrants a right to counsel; and

WHEREAS, the average daily cost of maintaining a system of immigrant detention could cost the United States \$5.05 million in fiscal year 2014; and

WHEREAS, the United States faces a budget deficit in excess of \$642 billion that now accounts for 4% of the country's Gross Domestic Product; and

WHEREAS, several United States judges have publicly questioned and cast doubt on the claim that detention deters unauthorized migration; and

WHEREAS, detainees in private prisons are paid as little as 3 cents an hour for their labor; and

WHEREAS, the private prison industry detains immigrant workers who are mothers and fathers, some of whom have lived in the United States since childhood, and separates them from their children, spouses, family, and community; and

WHEREAS, the profits of the private prison industry are dependent upon pro-incarceration policies, exploitation of detained immigrants and incarcerated people of color, and continued investment in the industry's stocks and debt;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that LCLAA calls upon all state and local governments, public office holders, and private institutions to require the securities broker or investment management company that invest any funds of those institutions through stocks, bonds or other securities to wholly divest those investments from the private prison industry and create a portfolio screen preventing any future investments in the private prison industry: and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that LCLAA calls upon the federal government and all state and local governments to prohibit any and all persons acting on their behalf from entering into any financial relationships with private prison companies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that LCLAA calls upon the US Senate Appropriations Committee to deny funding for the operation and construction of Criminal Alien Requirement (CAR) prisons or any other facility whose purpose is to incarcerate or detain immigrants; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that LCLAA calls upon the US House of Representatives Appropriations Committee to deny funding for the operation and construction of CAR prisons or any other facility whose purpose is to incarcerate or detain immigrants; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall be sent to all LCLAA chapters, local bodies, central labor councils and federations with LCLAA chapters, urging them to act in a like manner.

Respectfully Submitted by the LCLAA Los Angeles County Chapter

REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE: _____

CONCURRENCE: _____ X _____

NON-CONCURRENCE: _____

3. SI SE PUEDE: A RESOLUTION FOR A NATIONAL HOLIDAY/DAY OF SERVICE FOR AMERICAN LABOR LEADER CESAR E. CHAVEZ

WHEREAS, Cesar E. Chavez, born in 1927 to humble beginnings, rose to national fame and prominence as the founder of the United Farm Workers, and was a major force in American Labor History; and

WHEREAS, through lifelong sacrifice, drive, and determination, Cesar E. Chavez focused the attention of the world on the plight of the farm worker; and

WHEREAS, in his tireless efforts, Cesar E. Chavez empowered workers to fight for workplace safety by participating in nonviolent strikes, marches and boycotts nationally and internationally, and his commitment to nonviolence serves as a shining beacon to a world distracted by hatred and bloodshed; and

WHEREAS, millions of Americans from across the nation, of all races and nationalities, joined Cesar E. Chavez in the movement for farm worker rights; and

WHEREAS, Cesar E. Chavez was also a champion for civil rights, labor rights, voting rights, women's rights and was an early environmentalist, warning the public of the devastating adverse effects of pesticides on both farm workers and consumers; and

WHEREAS, as a result of Cesar E. Chavez's lifetime of contribution to the betterment of working men and women, many cities and states celebrate his birthday on March 31st as a holiday, and countless schools, streets, libraries, sculptures, other public institutions and a US Navy vessel have been named in his honor; and

WHEREAS, the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement (LCLAA) was one of the first national organizations to declare its support and remains in the forefront in the drive to establish a national holiday/day of service for Cesar E. Chavez; and

WHEREAS, Cesar E. Chavez was the recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Bill Clinton and his legacy continues to be preserved and celebrated amongst the Latino community;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement (LCLAA) calls on U.S. Congress and President Obama to establish a Cesar E. Chavez National Holiday/Day of Service on March 31st; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement (LCLAA) calls on all candidates to support a National Holiday/Day of Service on March 31st; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, we call on our Chapters and their affiliates to always remember our labor history and support a day of action to commemorate a major labor historical icon, Cesar E. Chavez, on March 31st; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the major motion picture depicting Cesar E. Chavez's life be shown nationally as part of his holiday/day of service to inspire, educate and mobilize people of every community who strive to improve the quality of their lives; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement (LCLAA) will continue to join forces with Latino, labor, civil rights, interfaith leaders and other organizations, elected officials, and celebrities who are working together to insure that the legacy of Cesar E. Chavez is officially recognized, celebrated and emulated throughout our nation on March 31st; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement (LCLAA) and its' Chapters will honor and celebrate the life of Cesar E. Chavez by participating in service, learning and action events; and join other actions for a National Holiday/Day of Service on March 31st.

Respectfully Modified by the Chicago Metro LCLAA Chapter, 2014

Original Resolution submitted by Los Angeles LCLAA Chapter, 2008

“Once social changes begins, it cannot be reversed, you cannot un-educate the person who has learned to read. You cannot humiliate the person who feels pride. You cannot oppress the people who are not afraid anymore.” (Cesar E. Chavez, November, 1984)

REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE: _____

CONCURRENCE: _____ X _____

NON-CONCURRENCE: _____

4. RESOLUTION ON ENDING THE U.S. EMBARGO OF CUBA

WHEREAS, LCLAA stands in full solidarity with Cuban workers and with the Cuban people in their struggle for labor, human, and democratic rights; and

WHEREAS, LCLAA recognizes that the policy of the United States and other nations toward Cuba only makes sense if it truly empowers Cuban workers, advances authentic and democratic Cuban trade unionism, contributes to genuine improvement of labor and human rights, and truly serves the humanitarian and democratic interests of Cuban workers and of the Cuban people; and

WHEREAS, there is a broad consensus among the democratic forces in Cuba, as well as the global trade union movement, that the U.S. economic embargo has failed to achieve its policy goals of promoting political change, while adversely affecting ordinary Cuban citizens; and

WHEREAS, a recent poll released by Florida International University indicates that a majority of Cuban Americans in Miami, Florida support establishing diplomatic relations with Cuba (68%), lifting travel restrictions (69%), and ending the embargo (52%); and

WHEREAS, the current aspects of the U.S. economic embargo on Cuba that restrict individual and group travel of American citizens, including U.S. trade unionists, and place unjustifiable limits on family remittances, are counterproductive to advancing worker and human rights on the island;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that LCLAA urge the U.S. Congress to repeal the Helms-Burton Act and establish effective mechanisms to monitor the behavior of multinational companies and provide sanctions for violations of internationally recognized worker rights; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that LCLAA urge the U.S. government to end individual and group travel restrictions to Cuba involving U.S. citizens and take other measures within the authority of the Executive Branch, including removing Cuba from the list of State Sponsors of Terrorism in recognition of its cooperation with the U.S. on drug interdiction and diplomatic initiatives; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that LCLAA make every effort to work with the International Trade Union Confederation, the Trade Union Confederation of the Americas, and the global labor movement to further the cause of worker and human rights in Cuba.

Respectfully re-submitted this 7th of August 2014,
Pittsburgh Chapter of the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement

REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE: _____

CONCURRENCE: _____ X _____

NON-CONCURRENCE: _____

5. RESOLUTION REAFFIRMING LCLAA’S SUPPORT FOR THE UNCONDITIONAL PARDON AND RELEASE OF OSCAR LOPEZ RIVERA

WHEREAS, Oscar López Rivera, a decorated veteran of the Vietnam War who returned to the Puerto Rican community of Chicago to become a successful community organizer and help improve conditions in education, housing, and employment; and

WHEREAS, in May of 1981 he was arrested with 14 other men and women, and was convicted of seditious conspiracy and related offenses, yet neither he nor any of his co-defendants was convicted of harming anyone; and

WHEREAS, in 1999, as a result of an international campaign for their release, President Clinton commuted the sentences of most of these men and women, and offered to commute Oscar’s sentence but in solidarity with those not included in the commutation Oscar declined; and

WHEREAS, all those released are living productive, law-abiding lives and of all his co-defendants only Oscar remains behind bars; and

WHEREAS, at 71 years of age he is the longest-held political prisoner in the history of Puerto Rico and has served more time than the late South African leader Nelson Mandela; and

WHEREAS, many public figures and international organizations have petitioned for his release these past 33 years, including several members of the U.S. House of Representatives, elected officials from Puerto Rico, New York, California, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Illinois along with international figures from Haiti, Mexico, and Australia among others, as well as countless Puerto Rican and Latino communities throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations Special Committee on Decolonization has adopted resolutions annually, as recently as 2011, calling on the President of the United States to release Oscar; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the 2014 LCLAA Convention calls on the President of the United States to exercise the Constitutional power of pardon, and to grant immediate and unconditional release of Oscar López Rivera.

Respectfully submitted by Guillermo Perez, President, Pittsburgh Chapter of the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement

REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE: _____

CONCURRENCE: _____ X _____

NON-CONCURRENCE: _____

6. RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF U.S. POSTAL WORKERS; DON'T BUY STAPLES

WHEREAS, the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) has a no-bid, sweetheart deal with Staples to operate postal counters in 82 Staples stores and to provide nearly all the services U.S. Post Offices provide; and

WHEREAS, the USPS and Staples plan to expand the program to Staples' 1,500 U.S. stores; and

WHEREAS, the USPS and Staples have refused to staff Staples' postal units with unionized USPS employees who have the training and experience to properly handle U.S. Mail, who have sworn an oath to uphold the highest standards of public service, and who are accountable to the American people; and

WHEREAS, low-wage, non-union "postal" jobs at Staples will inevitably replace the living-wage, union jobs of U.S. Postal Service employees and Staples stores will inevitably replace U.S. Post Offices; and

WHEREAS, privatizing the handling of U.S. Mail will jeopardize the sanctity and security of the mail; and

WHEREAS, postal workers have been vigorously fighting this blatant attempt to privatize the U.S. Postal Service, replace their living-wage jobs with low-wage jobs, and degrade service, and whereas they have asked for our support; and

WHEREAS, we care about high-quality public services, protecting living-wage jobs, and maintaining universal, affordable mail service for the American people and we oppose privatization of public services;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the 20th National Membership Convention of the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement being held at Houston, Texas, August 6 – 9, 2014 supports the American Postal Workers Union (APWU) in its efforts to protect good-paying jobs and its insistence on the highest possible standards of customer service; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement opposes efforts by the U.S. Postal Service to privatize operations and to sell off valuable public assets; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that members of the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement, along with friends, colleagues and family members, are urged to no longer shop at Staples stores until further notice; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement will submit and advocate to the AFL-CIO and the Change to Win Federation boycott of Staples to begin during the back- to-school period this summer; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this call to boycott Staples will be communicated immediately to members of Labor Council for Latin American Advancement and all its affiliates our local unions and news media.

Respectfully submitted by New York City Labor Council for Latin American Advancement and Victor Sanchez, President, Central Florida LCLAA Chapter

Originally submitted by the California Federation of Teachers

REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE: _____

CONCURRENCE: _____ X _____

NON-CONCURRENCE: _____

7. RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE’S CLIMATE MARCH

WHEREAS, world leaders are coming to New York City on September 23 for a historic United Nations summit on climate change and Secretary General Ban-Ki Moon will call for governments to agree on an ambitious agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions before the end of 2015; and

WHEREAS, an unprecedented array of groups representing climate, economic justice, environmental justice, human rights, labor, faith and the arts are uniting for the People’s Climate March this September 21st in New York City; and

WHEREAS, the rapidly changing climate is impacting union members and working communities in New York, as we know by experiencing firsthand the devastating impacts of Hurricane Sandy; and

WHEREAS, we recognize that working people will suffer disproportionately from the current patterns of investment and neglect that do not prioritize good jobs, clean air, and healthy communities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the 20th National LCLAA Convention endorses the People’s Climate March and supports the demand for an ambitious, binding, and fair agreement for emission reductions to foster a sustainable adaptation to the effects of climate change; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, National LCLAA encourages its chapters as well as the AFL-CIO and the Change to Win Federation and its affiliate union members, as well as their families and friends, to participate in the march as proud union members and activists and to also encourage participation in the other events around the UN Climate Summit on September 23rd to address the challenge of climate change.

Respectfully submitted by the New York City Labor Council for Latin American Advancement

REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE: _____

CONCURRENCE: _____ X _____

NON-CONCURRENCE: _____

8. RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO THE PROPOSED FEDERAL LEGISLATION TO FAST TRACK THE APPROVAL PROCESS OF FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS BY THE UNITED STATES, AND THE TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP

WHEREAS, the United States Congress is currently debating the merits of legislation which would expedite the negotiation and approval of any and all future trade agreements between the United States of America and others. This legislation, henceforth known as “Fast Track,” would ensure future trade agreements, including the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) which is currently being reviewed, circumvent all congressional procedural powers for review, debate, and amendment; and

WHEREAS, if the so-called Fast Track legislation were to become law, the Congress would relinquish its fundamental democratic right to review future trade agreements, including thorough analysis of an agreement’s impact on the communities these legislators are elected to represent. Under the Fast Track legislation, all decisions surrounding trade agreements would be made behind closed doors with minimal, if any, transparency, while American families and their communities would certainly suffer the consequences; and

WHEREAS, over the last twenty years, studies suggest more than 3.5 million American jobs have been lost as a direct result of these types of agreements, in part because partnering nations have a cheaper labor workforce while environmental regulations are lax, or nonexistent. Most notably, the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) led directly to the closure of more than 60,000 manufacturing facilities and elimination of more than one million jobs alone; and

WHEREAS, because free trade agreements preempt all federal, state and municipal laws, serious discussion and review of these agreements must be examined both on the floor of the United States Congress as well as in the communities which will likely be impacted or outright crippled. Fast Track legislation would ensure a wide range of pre-existing public policy at the federal, state, and local levels be rewritten via trade agreements without any public discourse; and

WHEREAS, while public debate surrounding future agreements like the TPP will cease to exist, special and corporate interests will have even greater influence over the development of such agreements. Under the Fast Track legislation, the United States Trade Representative would negotiate agreements with other nations in secretive, behind-closed-door meetings, with advisory status granted to hundreds of corporate lobbyists who would subsequently advise the Trade Representative. Following these secretive negotiations with special interest influence, a final agreement with participating countries will become law in the United States with no input from the general public; and

WHEREAS, if the Fast Track legislation is passed, the TPP would be finalized without Congressional input and amendments. The TPP has been considered a race to the bottom with regard to worker wages because the agreement will make it more difficult to ensure fair labor standards, ultimately compromising many more American jobs. The TPP would also limit government oversight of financial institutions and would allow multinational corporations to challenge the legality of any and all new environmental regulations in the United States;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement declares its opposition to the Fast Track legislation currently being considered by the United States Congress as it will diminish the City/State's ability to act in the best interest of our residents and this community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement declares its opposition to the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), currently being considered in the United States Congress; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement will provide a copy of this resolution to United States Trade Representative Michael Froman as well as to our Congressional delegation, demanding that the best interests of American workers and our communities are protected.

Respectfully submitted by the New York City and Long Island chapters of the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement

REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE: _____

CONCURRENCE: _____ X _____

NON-CONCURRENCE: _____

9. RESOLUTION FOR SCIENCE-BASED CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY NOW

WHEREAS, climate change is changing the way we live and the way we work. Extreme global weather patterns are diminishing global water supplies, contributing to the rapid extinction of plant and animal life, and threatening to flood coastal regions close to the melting ice caps. Humanity is encountering new challenges and more serious hazards in the workplace; and

WHEREAS, in the year since Hurricane Sandy, a continued lack of investment has caused the crumbling of our basic systems we rely on to bring us heat, electricity and clean water, and highlights the need for immediate action. Hardest hit are our communities in need due to the lack of resources and infrastructure. These are communities many in labor have placed a high priority to organize; and

WHEREAS, the findings from the congressionally mandated National Climate Assessment (NCA) are proof that the consequences of climate change know no boundaries. Worsening effects on human health, increasingly catastrophic damages due to extreme weather, and rising economic costs are just the tip of the iceberg; and

WHEREAS, our world's air, water, soil and groundwater are being contaminated by the misuse, mishandling, and release of hazardous workplace chemicals that threaten human and environmental health; and

WHEREAS, scientific evidence has confirmed that human use of fossil fuels is contributing to global warming, causing rising sea levels, changes in climate patterns and threats to coastal areas; and

WHEREAS, many environmental problems, such as global warming, acid rain, ozone depletion, tropical deforestation, and the loss of biodiversity are global in scale, requiring unprecedented international cooperation if they are to be solved; and

WHEREAS, irresponsible employers have created serious environmental problems in the communities where they operate, even as they have treated their workers unjustly, and such environmental irresponsibility threatens the long-term viability of community health and jobs; and

WHEREAS, corporations that adapt to cleaner processes producing safe, energy efficient products for a green economy will succeed in preventing job losses; and

WHEREAS, industrial pollution harms workers on the job, as well as their families at home; and

WHEREAS, the issues of economic justice and human rights cannot be separated from environmental issues; and

WHEREAS, better management of our vulnerability to climate change means we have to make sure that our key infrastructure systems from government buildings, pipelines, sewer lines, hospitals, transit systems, and electrical grids, are retrofitted and better built to withstand more extreme weather. In addition, first responders must be prepared for the growing health risks associated with climate change. After the hottest decade in the U.S. on record, we must act. These efforts must be inclusive and collaborative and continue to carry forward the work of the President's Climate Action Plan. All of this is also an opportunity to create quality, family-sustaining union jobs with benefits; and

WHEREAS, AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka was forthright in his statement about climate threat: "Scientists tell us we are headed ever more swiftly toward irreversible climate change with catastrophic consequences for human civilization. And far from being a threat only in a distant future, climate change is happening now. That demands action! The carbon emissions from coal, from oil and natural gas, agriculture, and so many other human activities have caused global warming, and we have to act to cut those emissions, and act now"; and

WHEREAS, U.S. unions along with the global labor movement have refuted the corporate/global capital based climate change policy and are heeding the call for action in adopting a science-based climate change policy. The world's leading body of climate scientists, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), advocate the reduction of carbon in the atmosphere to 350 parts per million that America's leading climate scientist, James Hansen, says is necessary to prevent the "catastrophic consequences for human civilization that is looming on the horizon";

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the 20th National LCLAA Convention, held in Houston, TX, August 6 – 9, 2014, hereby adopts a science-based climate change policy for the workplace in recognition that environmental rights are a workers rights' issue; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that LCLAA hereby adopts the establishment of a national infrastructure bank for infrastructure/resource development so all needs are met, particularly in all immigrant/communities in-need, when hit by natural disasters. These are the very communities most supportive of union organizing campaigns; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that LCLAA hereby endorses a national education/apprenticeship program establishing a "just transition" program for those in polluting industries, and training leading to good, union, green jobs with benefits; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that LCLAA motivate the adoption of this resolution by the AFL-CIO and Change to Win Federations and its affiliates.

Respectfully submitted by the New York City Labor Council for Latin American Advancement

REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE: _____

CONCURRENCE: _____X_____

NON-CONCURRENCE: _____

10.RESOLUTION FOR FEDERAL FUNDING FOR WORK FORCE HOUSING

WHEREAS, America is facing a housing crisis that is creating widespread hardships among working class families resulting in an increase in the number of renters paying more than 50% of their income for housing. Today, only 24% of the 19 million eligible households receive rental assistance; and

WHEREAS, housing affordability problem is greatest in New York, New Jersey and California where 22% of households are paying more than 50% pre-taxed income for housing, and where the median income home values and rents are among the highest in the country; and

WHEREAS, the availability of federal housing resources such as HOME funds that can promote income equality for Americans in communities where affordable housing is a scarce resource. Federal funds for housing can also result in prevailing wage requirements and thereby foster gainful employment for union members of the building trades unions; and

WHEREAS, community-based not for profit housing companies can serve as federally funded “HOME” Local Program Administrators (Intermediaries), providing grants and low cost loans to home-buyers and rental subsidies to tenants of federally financed affordable housing developments; and

WHEREAS, the ability to develop work force housing and thereby increase opportunities for affordable housing for union members, and working families can be made possible with increased federal appropriations;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the 20th National LCLAA Convention, being held in Houston TX, August 6-9, 2014 calls for federal funding to be made available to support workforce housing projects and projects sponsored by unions for their members. In keeping with the workforce housing resolution passed at LCLAA’s 2012 convention and this resolution which requests federal funding for work force housing; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, LCLAA should establish a workforce housing task force to meet with Congressional Representatives and Federal Government Officials to solicit funding to help finance the development of work force housing and increase opportunity for unions to develop housing for their members.

Respectfully submitted by:

New York City Labor Council for Latin American Advancement

REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE: _____

CONCURRENCE: _____ X _____

NON-CONCURRENCE: _____

11. RESOLUTION FOR A HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE TO MIGRANT CHILDREN CRISIS

WHEREAS, according to a June 16, 2014, New York Times article, “Since October more than 47,000 unaccompanied youths have been apprehended along the Southwest border, and border officials estimate that number may double by the end of this year; and

WHEREAS, we believe that all children must be ensured international protection and be treated with dignity and respect. We believe we are called to care for all children, as if they were our own; and

WHEREAS, the reasons these children have left their countries of origin are complex and interrelated and have been well documented by the United Nations High Commission on Refugees report, “Children on the Run,” which has warned of this growing humanitarian crisis. The vast majority are seeking refuge from surges of violence, and to be reunited with their parents and families living in the United States. Extreme poverty and economic forces, along with situations of surging violence have pushed many of these children out of their home countries. Many have endured horrific trauma and violence as they flee their countries often crossing multiple borders; and

WHEREAS, it is heartbreaking and appalling to see and hear of the inadequate conditions in which children are being held along the U.S. southern border. Children should never be held in detention facilities or makeshift holding centers. Policing and enforcement agencies should not be taking care of children for children must be reunited with their families in the U.S. immediately;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: The 20th National Membership Convention of the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement calls for independent oversight and human rights monitoring which must be allowed to ensure the safety and protection of these children; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED: the National Labor Council for Latin American Advancement calls its affiliates, the AFL-CIO, the Change to Win labor federations, and all its affiliates to mobilize our respective membership, as well as lobby the U.S. Congress and the president to enact mandatory humanitarian aid and, protection, for migrant children with the purpose for reunification with their families in the U.S.

Respectfully submitted,

New York City Labor Council for Latin American Advancement

REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE: _____

CONCURRENCE: _____ X _____

NON-CONCURRENCE: _____

12. RESOLUTION FOR SAFE STAFFING FOR ALL IN HEALTHCARE

WHEREAS, the quality and availability of healthcare and healthcare resources varies widely in our communities; and

WHEREAS, healthcare resources available to people in high-income communities are greater than those available to communities composed of working and low-income peoples of color, including Latinos; and

WHEREAS, equal access to quality healthcare regardless of immigration status, ability to pay, or socio-economic status is a matter of highest concern to the Latino community; and

WHEREAS, nurses and unions representing nurses share a deep commitment to providing universal and equal access to healthcare of the highest quality to all communities, regardless of immigration status, ability to pay or socio-economic standing; and

WHEREAS, numerous studies and our daily experiences as nurses confirm conclusively that inadequate staffing negatively affects health outcomes for our patients; and

WHEREAS, hospitals and other healthcare providers serving communities of color, low-income and working class populations are disproportionately under-resourced and understaffed in relation to those serving more affluent populations; and

WHEREAS, healthcare and access to healthcare are basic human rights;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the 20th National Convention, being held in Houston, TX, August 6-9, 2014 declares that all patients and all communities have a right to *equal* access to the *highest* quality of healthcare; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that LCLAA further declares that all patients are entitled to receive resources and patient care staffing commensurate with their healthcare needs and necessary to prevent disparate health outcomes; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that LCLAA supports the enactment of minimum, legally enforceable nurse to patient staffing ratios in all healthcare settings at the state and national level as a necessary step toward eliminating disparities in the availability and quality of healthcare in our communities.

Respectfully submitted by 1199 SEIU UHWE, NY State PEF, NYSNA, and the New York City Labor Council for Latin American Advancement

REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE: _____

CONCURRENCE: _____ X _____

NON-CONCURRENCE: _____

13. RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF MODIFYING CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964, ADD FOUR WORDS: SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY

WHEREAS, we, Lesbian, Gay, Transgender, Queer Americans, for too long have settled for piecemeal legislation; and

WHEREAS, same-sex families should be eligible for important federal benefits and protections such as family and medical leave, Social Security spousal and survivors' benefits; and

WHEREAS, 21 states in the union already have some form of Marriage Equality or same-sex civil unions in place, but these have proven to fall short of complete equality in all sectors of society such as employment, housing, health, etc.; and

WHEREAS, on June 26, 2013 a key provision of the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act, Section 3 was repealed in the Edith Windsor case; and

WHEREAS, the LGBTQ community is supported by 53% of American citizens and enjoys, as well, the support of this body, LCLAA; and

WHEREAS, July 2nd will be the 50th year celebration of the signing of Civil Rights Act of 1964 by President Lyndon B. Johnson; and

WHEREAS, President Barack Obama publicly supported same-sex marriage and his administration took a stand not to defend DOMA, which led to victories for same-sex marriage in the Supreme Court; and

WHEREAS, the repeal of Don't Ask Don't Tell in 2010 has been in effect since September 20, 2011 protecting the rights of soldiers in the United States Military; and

WHEREAS, for over 20 years, international labor unions have been advocating for the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), but which in itself has religious provisions that would continue to perpetuate discrimination; and

WHEREAS, this body and labor leaders understand the importance of expanding civil rights to all individuals in society, because an injustice to one is an injustice to all; and

WHEREAS, when presented the facts about the shortfalls of ENDA and the movement to seek full equality through the Civil Rights Act modification, the response was overwhelmingly positive and supportive of a campaign that would culminate in full equality for all; and

WHEREAS, there was unanimous acceptance of said approach by members, this has paved the path for the elaboration of the present resolution; and

WHEREAS, LCLAA recognizes that the preservation and expansion of civil rights, liberties and federal benefits to all communities including the entire LGBTQ community is essential to the well-being of a democratic society;

BE IT RESOLVED, that LCLAA call upon Congress to act on the modification of the Civil rights Act of 1964 by signing on to the Full Equality Pledge to Add Four Words: Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity and communicating the organization's support for the initiative; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that LCLAA be part of, and be instrumental in organizing local chapters to sign on to the Full Equality Pledge, as well as, call on other coalition of organizations to push congress to modify the Civil Rights Act; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that LCLAA chapters join the Full Equality Pledge Network operating in 22 states and designate members to collaborate with over 40 organizers on the ground; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in joining this resolution, LCLAA will send a very strong message of solidarity with LGBTQ working families; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the acceptance of this resolution means that LCLAA supports the movement to bring Full Equality to all Americans, and end the disparate treatment of 100,000+ of legally LGBTQ married couples as second class citizens; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that LCLAA will do everything within its power to bring justice and equality to all communities, including LGBTQ working families by asking Congress to make Add Four Words: Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity a priority in its next legislative session.

Respectfully submitted by the New York City Labor Council for Latin American Advancement

Originally submitted by the 1199 SEIU LGBTQ Caucus

REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE: _____

CONCURRENCE: _____ X _____

NON-CONCURRENCE: _____

14. RESOLUTION TO PROMOTE THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN/LATINAS/MINORITIES IN STEM FIELDS

WHEREAS, the number of jobs in STEM (Science, Techology, Engineering, Math) fields has increased by more than thirty percent since calendar year 2000, the number of jobs in STEM fields continue to outpace the number of qualified applicants; and

WHEREAS, while the number of undergraduate and graduate STEM degrees granted since calendar year 2000 have increased, the total number of degrees awarded in STEM fields have not increased proportionately. Instead, they have remained relatively flat. The federal government's on-line newsletter published an article citing that fifty percent of STEM graduates are women. However, within one year of graduating, one-third of them feel stalled, and are looking not only to leave their jobs, but their fields, due to exclusion from networks, lack of sponsors/mentors, and senior managers who perceive males as leadership material, thus bypassing equally qualified female candidates; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that STEM skills may be required in as many as fifty percent of future jobs, females and minority students are not making any progress in this field. The ensuing labor pool is increasingly comprised of latinosaurs yet they are not advancing in these fields. This seems to be having a domino effect on teenagers who, historically, have been the group most interested in STEM fields. This is most prevalent in the children of women and minorities already working in and being bypassed in their STEM fields; and

WHEREAS, a survey of 1,025 teens by Junior Achievement USA and the ING U.S. Foundation found a fifteen to forty six percent decline since 2012 in the number of teens interested in pursuing a career in STEM or medical-related fields. The U.S. Department of Labor projects STEM employment opportunities to increase by seventeen percent through 2018; and

WHEREAS, government interventions have had little impact on increasing the number of women and minorities in STEM fields. Recruitment efforts continue to focus on undergraduate students primarily made up of whites and Asians. As women and minorities already in the field are overlooked and afforded little or no opportunity to grow professionally and move into relevant titles. This has given rise to an exodus of a qualified and educated female and minority workforce from the field, forcing them to seek their livelihoods in other disciplines, or, sometimes, in other countries;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement will employ its political clout to advocate for and create pathways for women and minorities already working in STEM fields to progress and advance at the same rate as their white and Asian male counterparts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement will employ its political clout to advocate for parity in salary for women and minorities in STEM fields; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement will use its resources to advocate for the creation of a federal/state/city funded mentor program, comprised of women and minorities to identify and promote candidates already in the field and students pursuing such fields to ensure their participation and success in said fields. Mentor/Sponsorship will be targeted towards students from elementary to graduate levels, expressing interest in these fields, as well as women and minorities already in STEM or STEM related fields; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement will expose and oppose any instances of discrimination against women and minority candidates in STEM or STEM related fields; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement will employ its political clout to advocate federal, state, and local governments to financially, academically, and structurally support these efforts by creating an entity dedicated solely to making this happen. Such an entity should be comprised of and be representative to women and minorities.

Respectfully submitted by Migdalia Acevedo, New York City LCLAA member

REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE: _____

CONCURRENCE: _____ X _____

NON-CONCURRENCE: _____

15. RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF IRELAND

WHEREAS, our ancient Ireland, home to a magnificent people, who through the ages, in our Americas, has shown and demonstrated, time and again, a reverence for our various *culturas*, whether Mexicano, Mayan or Mapuche; and

WHEREAS, we cherish true friendship and lasting unity acknowledging common struggles for liberty and independence; and

WHEREAS, the Good Friday Agreement, a mandate, providing a specific framework for unifying Ireland's original, indigenous, providences, Four Green Fields, needs to be accelerated for compliance; and

WHEREAS, our National LCLAA body, continues to distinguish itself in leading educational, health, housing, employment and most importantly immigration, efforts for fair and reasonable treatment backed by hundreds of years of conviction and proud history for the common good, throughout our continent;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that this esteemed gathering support this ever increasing United Ireland Campaign, thereby joining many labor bodies, including city councils, state legislatures and numerous individual U.S. Congressional and Senate voices who see a future free of occupation and bigotry, spawning the joys of inevitable peace; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that representatives of this campaign transmit the decision of this convention to all who envision *un mundo sin fronteras*.

Respectfully submitted by the San Diego and Imperial Counties LCLAA Chapter

REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE: _____

CONCURRENCE: _____ X _____

NON-CONCURRENCE: _____

16.RESOLUTION CALLING FOR ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION TO STOP THE DEPORTATION CRISIS

WHEREAS, 71% of Hispanic voters cast their votes for Barack Obama in 2012, compared to 27% for Mitt Romney and up from 67% in 2008. More Hispanics came out to the polls than ever before, and the 71% of votes cast for Obama was the highest since 1996, when 72% of Hispanics voted for Bill Clinton in an uncontested election; and

WHEREAS, 77% of Hispanic voters advocated for a path to citizenship for unauthorized immigrants, compared to just 18% who preferred a strategy of deportation; and

WHEREAS, President Barack Obama has not hesitated to exercise his executive authority, including the issuing of a prosecutorial discretion memorandum, which was enacted to prioritize for deportation “aliens who pose a danger to national security or a risk to public safety”; and

WHEREAS, the failure to properly distinguish between low-priority deportations and high-priority deportations has led to an unacceptable level of removals. Two-thirds of deportations under President Obama have involved individuals who had committed minor traffic violations, or had no criminal record at all, posing no risk at all to national security or public safety; and

WHEREAS, these deportations have disproportionately impacted the Latino community; nearly 97% of deportations in 2013, over 356,000 individuals, were of Latino descent; and

WHEREAS, prosecutorial discretion has hardly been applied by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Less than two percent of cases closed by prosecutorial discretion have involved individuals charged with a criminal conviction other than immigration violations; and

WHEREAS, many cases where prosecutorial discretion has not been applied by ICE involve individuals with non-violent criminal records or are caretakers of children with U.S. children. These individuals pose neither a national security nor public safety threat, which signifies a troubling fact about ICE culture: that prosecution above all else is deemed to be the metric for success, ignoring humanitarian consequences; and

WHEREAS, the Administration’s I-9 audits disproportionately target businesses that employ higher percentages of Latino workers; and

WHEREAS, 5.5 million children with U.S. citizenship have at least one parent who is undocumented; and

WHEREAS, the psychological impact of deportations has been documented to cause depression, anxiety and/or post-traumatic stress in children who witness the deportation of a parent; and

WHEREAS, deportations have a devastating impact on communities; and

WHEREAS, there is a negative economic impact to deportations; they limit total wages, decrease tax revenue, and disrupt the flow of the workforce; and

WHEREAS, the Obama administration does have the administrative power to relieve deportations, and has used it in the past to bypass bureaucratic channels to enact necessary change, such as in the ceasing of support for the Defense of Marriage Act;

BE IT RESOLVED, that LCLAA will continue its advocacy efforts for Congress to pass comprehensive immigration reform with a pathway to citizenship; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that LCLAA will call for a moratorium on all low-priority deportations and demand that President Obama exercise his executive powers and end the separation of families.

Respectfully Submitted by the LCLAA National Executive Board

REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE: _____

CONCURRENCE: _____ X _____

NON-CONCURRENCE: _____

17. RESOLUTION ON HONDURAS

WHEREAS, a military coup kidnapped the democratically elected President of Honduras, Manuel Zelaya, on June 28, 2009, and overthrew the government; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations, the Organization of American States and the European Union immediately condemned the removal of Zelaya as a military coup d'état; and

WHEREAS, in July of 2011, Honduras' Truth Commission concluded that the removal of President Zelaya was an illegal violation of the Honduran Constitution and that the regime of interim president Roberto Micheletti is unconstitutional; and

WHEREAS, labor unions, teachers, students, farm workers, LGBT activists, indigenous groups and human rights organizations have formed a resistance movement that has led the struggle for a return to democracy; and

WHEREAS, tens of thousands of Hondurans have taken to the streets in nationwide demonstrations of resistance and have maintained their struggle for four years despite a continuing human rights crisis that has left hundreds of activists murdered; and

WHEREAS, a substantial opposition party was born out of the resistance movement, and its presidential candidate, Xiomara Castro de Zelaya, the wife of former President Zelaya, was defeated in general elections held in November of 2013; and

WHEREAS, Juan Orlando Hernández of the National Party, which was responsible for the 2009 coup, won a narrow election over Castro de Zelaya, the results of which are questionable considering widespread violence and voter intimidation, vote buying and media complicity; and

WHEREAS, the United States government has lauded the electoral process in Honduras, ignoring the widespread repression of democracy, limitation of civic participation, and basic human rights violations of the Hernández regime, even giving \$37 million dollars in military and security aid since the coup;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the LCLAA will call for an immediate suspension of all military and security aid to Honduras until the human rights abuses of the Hernández regime end and the democratic process is restored.

Respectfully Submitted by the LCLAA National Executive Board

REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE: _____

CONCURRENCE: _____ X _____

NON-CONCURRENCE: _____

18. RESOLUTION CALLING FOR JUSTICE FOR SANTIAGO RAFAEL CRUZ

WHEREAS, on the morning of April 9, 2007, the body of Santiago Rafael Cruz, a union organizer for the Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC), AFL-CIO, was found in FLOC's office in Monterrey, Mexico. He had been brutally tortured and murdered, and his dead body was tied and left in the union office; and

WHEREAS, FLOC represents Mexican migrant workers who travel from Mexico to North Carolina to work under a U.S. guest worker program. Santiago defended the human and labor rights of Mexican farm workers going to the United States, and he paid the ultimate price. Santiago was thirty years old; and

WHEREAS, following Santiago's assassination, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights found sufficient evidence that the murder was politically motivated, and issued a protective order for FLOC staff and members in Mexico; and

WHEREAS, union investigators have uncovered widespread corruption among Mexican labor recruiters who hire Mexican workers for U.S. agribusiness. Mexican workers covered by a FLOC contract are no longer victimized by unscrupulous recruiters. Santiago Rafael Cruz's murder was a message to FLOC to back down. The staff and members of FLOC in Mexico cannot feel safe until all of the murderers of Santiago Rafael Cruz are found and punished; and

WHEREAS, to date only one of his murderers has been captured and sentenced to prison, but three other suspects are still at large. The state government of Nuevo Leon is not taking the necessary steps to bring them to justice;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the LCLAA will stand by the AFL-CIO and FLOC in calling on the federal government of Mexico to take over the investigation of the murder of Santiago Rafael Cruz from the state of Nuevo Leon so that his assassins can be apprehended, and, after more than six years, be brought to justice; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the LCLAA will join the AFL-CIO in calling on the U.S. State Department to advocate that the federal government of Mexico take over the investigation of the murder of Santiago Rafael Cruz, monitor the investigation, and report back on the progress to FLOC.

Respectfully Submitted by the LCLAA National Executive Board

REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE: _____

CONCURRENCE: _____ X _____

NON-CONCURRENCE: _____

19. RESOLUTION ON MISTREATMENT OF WOMEN IN ICE DETENTION CENTERS

WHEREAS, President Barack Obama used his executive power to authorize prosecutorial discretion for Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE), distinguishing between high-priority and low-priority targets for deportation; and

WHEREAS, despite this change, ICE continues to pursue, prosecute, and deport many low-priority targets, including non-criminal reentrants, those with no criminal record aside from immigration violations, and those with a criminal record including only minor traffic violations; and

WHEREAS, on any given day, 3,200 women are held in custody by ICE, many of them falling within the low-priority parameters; and

WHEREAS, mothers are routinely taken into custody without being given the opportunity to arrange for child-care, to the detriment of both the mother and the child; and

WHEREAS, although emergency medical care is provided in ICE detention centers, it fails to address specific medical issues that women need; and

WHEREAS, ICE is not supposed to detain pregnant women unless they pose a clear threat to national security or the public, yet ICE does not even record statistics of pregnant women in detention; and

WHEREAS, as of 2014, it was discovered there were 40 pregnant women detained in El Paso and another 8 in San Diego. ICE has 250 detention centers nationwide, meaning that the number of detained pregnant women could be much higher; and

WHEREAS, medical care provided by ICE is not adequate for the needs of pregnant women; and

WHEREAS, detained women suffer from widespread sexual abuse while in ICE detention centers;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the LCLAA will push the Administration to enforce its policy of prosecutorial discretion, so that women are not unnecessarily subjected to the dangerous living conditions of ICE detention centers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ICE begin to keep data on pregnant women in their custody, and if a pregnant woman is to be detained, that ICE provide clear evidence that she is in fact a high-priority target that poses a clear and direct threat to the public or to national security, and in the event of the detainment of a pregnant woman, that proper prenatal care be provided; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the LCLAA will push for more federal oversight in ICE detention centers to ensure that basic human rights of female detainees are protected.

Respectfully Submitted by the LCLAA National Executive Board

REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE: _____

CONCURRENCE: _____ **X** _____

NON-CONCURRENCE: _____

20. RESOLUTION ON UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN CROSSING THE BORDER

WHEREAS, the Department of Homeland Security estimates that as many as 90,000 unaccompanied children could be apprehended at the border this year, 30,000 higher than an initial estimate this January and more than three times the number of children arrested at the border last year; and

WHEREAS, these numbers are only expected to increase, with estimates approaching 150,000 for 2015; and

WHEREAS, the vast majority of the new influx of unaccompanied children are fleeing rampant crime and poverty caused by drug cartels in Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador; and

WHEREAS, Honduras and El Salvador lead the world in homicide rates, with Guatemala not far behind, making the Northern Triangle of Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala one of the world's deadliest regions; and

WHEREAS, a United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) report found that the majority of unaccompanied children (60 percent) said they were seeking protection because they experienced or were in serious risk of violence in their home country; and

WHEREAS, the new wave of unaccompanied children crossing the border will cost the U.S. government \$2.28 billion alone, much more than the \$868 million requested by the Department of Health and Human Services in Fiscal Year 2014; and

WHEREAS, it is heartbreaking and appalling to see and hear of the inadequate conditions in which children are being held along the U.S. southern border. Children should never be held in detention facilities or makeshift holding centers. Policing and enforcement agencies should not be taking care of children who should instead be reunited with their families in the U.S. immediately; and

WHEREAS, legislation such as the Helping Unaccompanied Minors and Alleviating National Emergency (HUMANE) Act, introduced by Senator John Cornyn and Representative Henry Cuellar, seeks to roll back Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPRA) Protections for unaccompanied children from Central America to expedite the deportation process. These protections include a program that ensures safe repatriation by guaranteeing that they receive the chance for family reunification or a fair legal proceeding to determine if there is any danger in returning the children to their home country. This legislation effectively denies these children the legal protection they are afforded under the TVPRA; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that LCLAA call for an immediate humanitarian response from the Congress that treats the situation at the border as a refugee crisis, thereby placing the safety of the children first, ensuring they receive the same humanitarian protections afforded others in refugee situations;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that LCLAA strongly oppose the HUMANE Act, and refuses any future proposed legislation that attempts to expedite the deportation process for Central American children and deny them basic legal protections; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that LCLAA advocate for legislation that addresses the causes of immigration from Central America, and reject any solution that proposes mass deportation of all unaccompanied minors.

Respectfully Submitted by the LCLAA National Executive Board

REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE: _____

CONCURRENCE: _____ X _____

NON-CONCURRENCE: _____

21. RESOLUTION ON RIGHTS OF LATINAS IN THE WORKPLACE

WHEREAS, Latinas are currently the largest and fastest growing minority group in the United States; there are currently around 25 million women in the United States who identify as Latina; and

WHEREAS, Latina workers are among the most vulnerable in the United States, suffering lower weekly median earnings than any other ethnic group, a problem exacerbated by the rampant wage theft violations that plague Latinas more so than their Latino counterparts; and

WHEREAS, 37.1% of Latinas have been victims of domestic violence at some point in their lives; 8 million work days are lost to domestic violence every year; and

WHEREAS, abuse often follows Latinas to the workplace, where 77% report that sexual assault is a major issue at work. Half of all Latinas who died in the workplace in 2010 were the victims of assault and/or violent acts; and

WHEREAS, undocumented Latinas are particularly vulnerable to becoming victims of wage theft, unsafe working conditions, collective bargaining restrictions, and sexual abuse. These women often work in unsafe industries for sub-minimum wage salaries, but fear reporting these injustices because of the risk of deportation or being separated from their families; and

WHEREAS, immigrant families headed by a single Latina woman had a poverty rate of nearly 40% in 2012; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that LCLAA will advocate for federal legislation that offers undocumented workers legal immunity when reporting substandard work environments. We should be encouraging these workers to speak up to end minimum wage violations and workplace safety issues, not punishing them for coming forward. These are issues that disproportionately impact Latina workers, but would also empower the working community as a whole; and

Respectfully Submitted by the LCLAA National Executive Board

REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE: _____

CONCURRENCE: _____ X _____

NON-CONCURRENCE: _____

22. RESOLUTION ON WORKPLACE SAFETY RIGHTS

WHEREAS, Latino workers are disproportionately employed in dangerous, low-paying industries with traditionally higher rates of workplace accidents, and many of these workers are undocumented; and

WHEREAS, employers habitually prey on the socioeconomic status of Latino immigrant workers, particularly those without documentation, to shirk Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) workplace safety violations; and

WHEREAS, many workplaces in which Latino workers suffer fatalities do not meet minimum OSHA workplaces safety standards, exposing a systemic problem among U.S. employers; and

WHEREAS, these safety violations have resulted in a death rate for Latino workers 21 percentage points higher than the national average – higher than any other population group; and

WHEREAS, the vast majority of worksite fatalities suffered by Latino workers occur in non-union working environments; and

WHEREAS, employers use the risk of deportation as a scare tactic to discourage undocumented workers from reporting workplace safety violations or collective organization and action,

BE IT RESOLVED, that LCLAA will promote Latino labor unions by emphasizing the relation between workplace safety and collective organization at the community level; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that LCLAA will advocate for policy that guarantees the same workplace safety standards for all workers, regardless of documentation, and allows for protection for undocumented whistle-blowers of workplace safety violations; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that LCLAA will promote legislation that establishes a specific, strict punishment to be delivered by OSHA for any workplace-related accident that results in a fatality when a workplace safety violation has occurred, regardless of a worker's immigration status

Respectfully Submitted by the LCLAA National Executive Board

REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE: _____

CONCURRENCE: _____ X _____

NON-CONCURRENCE: _____

23. RESOLUTION ON ENGLISH LITERACY

WHEREAS, limited English skills have been proven to present a significant barrier to employment, job security, and the chance for promotion; and

WHEREAS, as of 2008, college-educated immigrants not fully proficient in English are more than twice as likely to work in unskilled labor positions than their English-proficient counterparts; and

WHEREAS, lacking English skills undermines parents' ability to parent effectively, as they are less able to check on their children's academic progress with English-speaking teachers, and causes undue stress on their children, who often have to serve as interpreters or translators for their parents; and

WHEREAS, English also plays a major role in determining civic participation rates among the immigrant community, as it makes it harder to pass naturalization tests and discourages voting and participation in local civic organizations, further disenfranchising the Latino community; and

WHEREAS, 58% of immigrants reported having low or medium oral English proficiency skills according to a study conducted by the National Assessment of Adult Literacy, and although Latinos represent just 23% of immigrants with high English oral proficiency, they also compose the overwhelming majority (86%) of immigrants with low English oral proficiency; and

WHEREAS, immigrants are more than three times as likely as non-immigrants to lack a high school diploma; and

WHEREAS, current adult English literacy programs are underfunded and fail to conform to the needs of the communities they serve; and

WHEREAS, the vast majority of children who begin their public education in the United States develop high proficiency English skills while retaining the ability to speak Spanish;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that LCLAA will pledge to help in the development of more efficient adult English education programs. Adult English education should focus more on the incentive to learning English while emphasizing the importance of retaining Spanish.

Respectfully Submitted by the LCLAA National Executive Board

REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE: _____

CONCURRENCE: _____ X _____

NON-CONCURRENCE: _____

24. RESOLUTION ON THE EFFECTS OF GLOBALIZATION ON THE WORKING COMMUNITY

WHEREAS, LCLAA recognizes that in a 21st century, globalized world, it is important to stand in solidarity not only with the labor community here in the United States, but the labor community worldwide, to ensure the universal protection of workers' rights; and

WHEREAS, the United States has entered into several free trade agreements over the last 25 years that appear on the surface to have universal benefits, but in reality have helped suppress wages and move jobs overseas, where global corporations can pay lower wages and neglect workplace safety regulations in place in the United States; and

WHEREAS, these free trade agreements often do not include effective provisions for environmental protection, and allow global corporations to outsource work to countries where emissions standards are either less strict or less strictly enforced; and

WHEREAS, proponents of globalization argue that it makes the cheapest goods more widely available to consumers. While this can be true, this is an outdated method of measuring overall public benefit. Small businesses that form an important base for domestic employment often do not have the means to outsource labor, making them less competitive against multinational corporations; and

WHEREAS, the United States was founded on the principle of empowering small business, yet globalization efforts run contrary to this goal, empowering only those with the capability to go global; and

WHEREAS, globalization often hinders the development of sustainable economic infrastructure in developing nations, which keeps the population mired in poverty. Poverty in Central America is one of the chief causes of immigration to the United States;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that LCLAA will advocate trade agreements that acknowledge and protect workers' rights, both at home and abroad, allow for sustainable economic development in third-world nations, place universal restrictions on dangerous emissions, promote universal work safety standards; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that LCLAA will advocate trade agreements that allow for flexibility and responsiveness. Globalization has unintended consequences on individual nations' economies, and those nations should have the opportunity to renegotiate trade agreements to ensure they are achieving shared prosperity; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that LCLAA will push for more transparency and openness in the negotiation of trade agreements. The impact of globalization is much more complex than the accepted rhetoric of free trade; there are negative effects as well. For too long, the interest of laborers has been sidelined in favor of the corporate agenda. The negotiation of trade agreements should include a realistic prognosis of any and all potential consequences on any and all impacted groups.

Respectfully Submitted by the LCLAA National Executive Board

REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE: _____

CONCURRENCE: _____ X _____

NON-CONCURRENCE: _____

25. RESOLUTION ON RAISING WAGES

WHEREAS, for decades, low wages have unnecessarily stifled purchasing power among the lower classes while executives pull in salaries in the millions; and

WHEREAS, the current federal minimum wage of \$7.25 does not provide a full-time low-wage worker with an income adequate to support a family of 3; and

WHEREAS, over 20% of the low-wage earning workforce is Latino; and

WHEREAS, increased productivity among low-wage laborers over the last 40 years has not been reflected with proportional increases in the minimum wage; and

WHEREAS, unequal bargaining power between corporations and their employees has an adverse effect on the working community as a whole, as it suppresses wages, purchasing power, and provides a disincentive for employers to uphold safe working conditions; and

WHEREAS, low-wage employers are among the largest contributors to anti-immigration politicians, routinely violate wage and workplace safety rights for Latino workers, and settle lawsuits out of court through the strength of their legal teams; and

WHEREAS, an increase in the minimum wage would not only benefit low-income workers, but the economy overall, because millions of workers would rise out of poverty and contribute more to the economy; and

WHEREAS, a federal minimum wage increase would directly impact 6.8 million Latino workers; and

WHEREAS, according to a study from the Economic Policy Institute, raising the wage to \$10.10 by 2016 would create \$22 billion in GDP growth; and

WHEREAS, executives at low-wage employers enjoy salaries that stretch into the millions; the average top executive at a low-wage employer makes more than the annual salary of a full-time minimum wage employee in less than four hours. Low-wage employers are more than capable of paying their employees higher wages; and

WHEREAS, employers habitually misclassify workers as independent contractors and abuse the temporary worker program to legally pay their employees less than minimum wage; and

WHEREAS, contrary to popular belief, raising the minimum wage will not result in unemployment;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that LCLAA supports an increase in the federal minimum wage to \$10.10, with the stipulation that it be fairly adjusted to reflect rises in inflation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that LCLAA will advocate for the expansion of collective bargaining power to include all workers, putting an end to the discriminatory practice of denying collective bargaining to workers based on immigration status; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that LCLAA will promote the expansion of federal oversight into wage theft and workplace safety violations in recognition that these violations have an impact that lowers standards for all workers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that LCLAA will support the overhaul of the temporary guest worker program to ensure that guest workers are not intentionally misclassified to deny them basic labor protection by employers abusing the program; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that LCLAA will oppose any legislation that denies state or municipal governments to enact stricter labor standards than those at the federal or state level.

Respectfully Submitted by the LCLAA National Executive Board

REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE: _____

CONCURRENCE: _____ X _____

NON-CONCURRENCE: _____

26. RESOLUTION ON PRISONS AND MASS INCARCERATION

WHEREAS, since the advent of the for-profit prison system in the mid 1980's, the prison population in the United States has more than quadrupled. This rise in the prison population is largely due to legislation that increases the punishment for non-violent crimes, the result of lobbying efforts by the private prison industry; and

WHEREAS, the spike in prison population has disproportionately involved minorities, specifically young males. This has a devastating impact on minority neighborhoods; already mired in poverty, they cannot afford the loss of so many working-age men; and

WHEREAS, even after release from prison, those targeted by the private prison system remain disenfranchised, as their criminal record makes it harder to rejoin the workforce and re-engage in civic participation; and

WHEREAS, the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement (LCLAA) has a history of opposing all unjust abuse of immigrants and people of color; and

WHEREAS, there exist no portfolio screens shielding public institutions' investments from placement in the private prison industry; and

WHEREAS, public employee and/or teacher retirement systems in Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, New York, Oregon, and Texas, currently hold millions of shares of private prison industry stock making our futures dependent on mass incarceration and detention of immigrants; and

WHEREAS, Corrections Corporation of America (CCA) and the GEO Group (GEO) own or manage over 70% of the private prison beds in the United states, and

WHEREAS, CCA and GEO have both been found liable for wrongful deaths, and sexual and other physical abuse in numerous court cases; and

WHEREAS, the private prison industry is opposed to workers' exercise of the universally recognized right to organize and belong to unions of their choice; and

WHEREAS, the private prison industry and its financial institutional investors have successfully lobbied for immigration enforcement policies that resulted in the detention of over 2 million immigrants in the past 5 years; and

WHEREAS, the private prison industry's lobbyists successfully influenced Congress to kill comprehensive immigration reform in 2013; and

WHEREAS, detained immigrants are prosecuted as criminals with prison sentences, to be served in private prisons, ranging from 180 days to over 10 years for infractions that were handled primarily by the civil legal system resulting in fines rather than incarceration prior to the Bush-Cheney Administration; and

WHEREAS, most detained immigrants, including children, survivors of torture, and refugees do not have an attorney because immigration law does not guarantee immigrants a right to counsel; and

WHEREAS, for-profit prisons have resulted in massive overcrowding of prisons, a big factor in determining prison violence that impacts both inmates and guards. Furthermore, overcrowding decreases the ability of the prison to provide adequate medical care, clothing and food for inmates; and

WHEREAS, underfunded schools in minority communities contribute to the “school-to-prison” pipeline. Low budgets mean less resources for at-risk students and zero-tolerance policies serve as population control for overcrowded schools, pushing minority children out of the educational system and into the criminal justice system;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that LCLAA calls upon all state and local governments, public office holders, and private institutions to require the securities broker or investment management company that invest any funds of those institutions through stocks, bonds or other securities to wholly divest those investments from the private prison industry and create a portfolio screen preventing any future investments in the private prison industry; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that LCLAA calls upon the federal government and all state and local governments to prohibit any and all persons acting on their behalf from entering into any financial relationships with private prison companies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that LCLAA calls upon the US Senate Appropriations Committee and US House of Representatives Appropriations Committee to deny funding for the operation and construction of Criminal Alien Requirement (CAR) prisons or any other facility whose purpose is to incarcerate or detain immigrants; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that LCLAA will support legislation that lessens the penalty for non-violent, crimes to ensure that victimless criminals do not serve undue prison sentences; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that LCLAA will advocate treatment programs for incarcerated drug users, a path towards rehabilitation rather than recidivism; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that LCLAA will promote legislation that help schools and communities develop programs that reduce the number of dropouts in Latino communities and undermines the current “school-to-prison” pipeline that so harms those communities.

Respectfully Submitted by the LCLAA National Executive Board in conjunction with the LCLAA Los Angeles County Chapter

REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE: _____

CONCURRENCE: _____ X _____

NON-CONCURRENCE: _____

27. RESOLUTION ON THE LENDING CRISIS

WHEREAS, minority communities have long been targeted by lenders as easy targets for predatory lending, as lenders intentionally mislead low-income minority families into believing that they can afford homes that in reality, they cannot; and

WHEREAS, predatory lending most often takes place at the subprime level, a market that disproportionately serves the Latino community; and

WHEREAS, examples of predatory lending at the subprime level include non-disclosure of all involved risks, falsification of family income reports to secure a more attractive loan, and misrepresentation of payment amounts, all of which serve to benefit the lender at the expense of the borrower; and

WHEREAS, the difficulties posed by the language barrier present an additional challenge for non-English speaking Latinos who are looking to borrow money to buy homes; and

WHEREAS, increases in subprime lending increased access to credit among Latino families. After the housing market collapsed, that increase in credit access resulted in a net decrease in homeownership, as skyrocketing interest rates caused the foreclosure of the homes of many Latino families; and

WHEREAS, high rates of foreclosure result in a loss of local tax revenue, putting a chokehold on the availability of public goods and services while vacant homes provide a breeding ground for criminal activity; and

WHEREAS, 30-50% of subprime loan recipients qualified for a more stable mainstream loan, but lenders often engage in “steering” or “push lending” tactics that encourage loan recipients to opt for a subprime package; and

WHEREAS, court proceedings at the state level have upheld that local ordinances with high populations of residents vulnerable to predatory lending cannot preempt state legislation against predatory lending;

WHEREAS, the Center for Responsible Lending estimates that predatory lending costs recipients of loans approximately \$9.1 billion every year; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that LCLAA will push federal and state governments to cede oversight on predatory lending legislation to municipal governments who can more accurately tailor legislation based on the demographics of their communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that LCLAA will educate Latino families on the dangers associated with homebuying, particularly the perils of the subprime lending market and what legal recourse might be available to them in the event they are victimized by predatory lending.

Respectfully Submitted by the LCLAA National Executive Board

REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE: _____

CONCURRENCE: _____ X _____

NON-CONCURRENCE: _____

28.RESOLUTION CONDEMNING RAIDING

WHEREAS, The Palm Beach/Space Coast LCLAA Chapter goes on record calling for immediate stoppage of Raiding; and

WHEREAS, destructive, time consuming, and resource depleting raids on unions by AFL-CIO affiliated and non-affiliated Unions and Associations are increasing; and

WHEREAS, such raiding activity undermines efforts to promote shared prosperity and weaken the ability of Unions to establish and maintain wage and benefit standards for working men and women and their families; and

WHEREAS, history has shown that raider unions negotiate inferior contracts, deliver little or no service to their members and lower standards for all workers; and

WHEREAS, such raiding activity is exploited by corporations who seek to undermine bona fide labor unions and the benefits they provide their members; and

WHEREAS, the entire labor movement must recognize damage done to workers when labor organizations are expending resources fighting each other rather than promoting virtues of trade unionism;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that LCLAA calls upon all affiliates including state and local bodies in every state in which there are LCLAA Chapters, to work together to defeat raiding attacks on trade union solidarity from other labor organizations, affiliated or non-affiliated with the AFL-CIO; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that LCLAA condemns the actions of any labor organization that does not promote, solidarity building, organizing the unorganized and labor union growth for the good of the labor movement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Palm Beach/Space Coast LCLAA Chapter demands that **SPECIFIC LOCAL** unions who engage in raiding other **SPECIFIC LOCAL** unions be put on notice that if they do not cease and desist from this activity they ~~will~~ **COULD** be banned from attending any LCLAA functions including Conferences and Conventions; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, THAT ANY ENTITY OR INDIVIDUAL THAT MAY BE BANNED FROM LCLAA SHALL HAVE A RIGHT TO APPEAL THE DECISION TO THE NATIONAL LCLAA EXECUTIVE BOARD.

Respectfully Submitted by the Palm Beach/Space Coast LCLAA Chapter

REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE: _____

CONCURRENCE: _____ X _____

NON-CONCURRENCE: _____

29. RESOLUTION ON STRENGTHENING PUBLIC EDUCATION TO MEET THE NEEDS OF ALL CHILDREN

WHEREAS, the LCLAA supports the movement to reclaim the promise of public education to provide each and every child an equitable and excellent public education, which helps to prepare them for life, citizenship, career and college; and

WHEREAS, the LCLAA believes in the promise and potential of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) but is deeply disappointed in the manner in which they have been implemented and the lack of shared responsibility among too many governors, chief state school officers and policymakers who have ignored the voice of teachers, practitioners and parents who are vital to the successful implementation of the standards; and

WHEREAS, the CCSS are a crucial piece of an equitable and excellent education system, because they hold the promise and potential of:

- Developing students' deep conceptual understanding, critical thinking and problem-solving abilities;
- Promoting interdisciplinary teaching, with purposeful connections among content areas;
- Freeing teachers from prescriptive programs and pacing guides that devalue their professional expertise and judgment;
- Encouraging collaboration among teachers to create rich lessons that connect content to real life; and

WHEREAS, the Common Core State Standards were developed under the aegis of the National Governors Association and the Council of Chief State School Officers with an engaged cadre of teachers including members from the AFT, but without sufficient educator input prior to adoption by the states; and

WHEREAS, standards are one element in an effective system that must also include:

- An aligned curriculum developed locally;
- Appropriate educational materials and technology;
- Quality and meaningful professional development for educators;
- Schools designed to support time for teachers to collaborate to help students meet the standards;
- High-quality and aligned assessments used to improve teaching and learning and to measure how well students meet the standards;
- An accountability system that replaces the current ineffective “test-and-punish/blame-and-shame” model with a “support-and-improve” system; and

WHEREAS, it is especially outrageous that the equity agenda that includes the Common Core is threatened in many states and districts:

- By flawed and hasty implementation before all the pieces of a comprehensive high-quality education system are in place;
- By inadequate resources and failure to address the wraparound services that many students need to be successful;

- By a political agenda to privatize public education;
- By testing students before they have had an opportunity to learn the knowledge and skills in the new standards; and

WHEREAS, the promise and potential of the CCSS to improve teaching and learning has been compromised by corporate interests to monetize the standards; and

WHEREAS, LCLAA members are strong supporters of the CCSS because they believe:

- The literacy standards, in addition to English language arts, include the social studies, history, science and technical subjects;
- The mathematics standards connect skills and concepts and are extremely clear about what topics should be learned within and across grades;
- The standards are cohesive and clear and include grade-by-grade mapping of knowledge and skills where topics build upon one another and subjects connect to one another;
- There is a focus on deeper learning and key skills, including critical thinking, application of knowledge, collaboration, teamwork, perseverance and resilience;
- They have the potential to replace mindless test preparation and scripted lessons by bringing teacher creativity and student engagement back into the classroom;
- The standards can form the basis for meaningful, teacher-driven professional development;
- Most important, they increase equity and access to middle-class jobs by making essential knowledge and skills available to *all* children, not just some;

RESOLVED, that the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement will continue to support the promise of CCSS, provided that a set of essential conditions, structures and resources are in place. Making those necessary corrections will, in the long run, keep us from going back to a system that did not address the needs of many students, especially disadvantaged students, English language learners and students with disabilities; and

RESOLVED, that LCLAA will reject low-level standardized testing and support the development of assessments aligned with rich curricula that encourage the kinds of higher-order thinking and performance skills students will need to use in the world outside of school; and

RESOLVED, that the LCLAA will continue to advocate for a shift in culture away from excessive testing and test preparation to a “support-and-improve” accountability system that seeks to hold all stakeholders accountable for the success of our students and uses assessments and other information to improve teaching and learning; and

RESOLVED, that the LCLAA will vigorously support its chapters in their efforts to hold policymakers and administrators accountable for the proper implementation of the CCSS; and

RESOLVED, that because of the lack of strong teacher voice and the careful and regular review required for responsible implementation, the LCLAA will support and advocate for the creation of an independent board composed of teachers, parents and other education professionals in states where the CCSS are being implemented. The purpose of these boards is to monitor the implementation of CCSS and use feedback from parents, educators and students to evaluate and continuously improve the system; and

RESOLVED, that the LCLAA calls for a national conversation about how best to measure student learning; support teacher involvement in all aspects of Common Core-related assessments; and

RESOLVED, that the LCLAA joins in calling for a moratorium on the high-stakes consequences of Common Core-aligned assessments for students, teachers and schools until the essential elements of a comprehensive, equitable standards-based system, including the technological infrastructure, are in place to ensure that the individual and unique needs of all students are being met including those of English Language Learners.

Respectfully submitted by the American Federation of Teachers (AFT)

REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE: _____

CONCURRENCE: _____ X _____

NON-CONCURRENCE: _____

30.NO LIFE SENTENCES WITHOUT OPPORTUNITY FOR PAROLE

WHEREAS, children should never be sentenced to “life without parole” for offenses they committed at an age that is characteristic of impulsive, immature and risk-taking behavior- things we know are common for all adolescents.

WHEREAS, research shows that young men of color are disproportionately impacted by the unfair sentencing laws carried out in each state.

WHEREAS, approximately 2500 people are currently serving life without parole for crimes committed as juveniles. What often goes unrealized is that most of the children who were sentenced to life without parole were victims of early childhood traumas, including mental and physical abuse, sexual assault, extreme poverty and neglect.

WHEREAS, the majority of the youth (59%) are serving life without parole for their very first offense and 40% were accompanied by an adult co-defendant who played a more dominant role in the offense and often received a lesser penalty.

WHEREAS, children do not have the same capacity as adults to avoid dangerous situations, think through the long-term consequences of their behaviors, or resist pressure from peers and adults. They also possess a unique capacity for change and rehabilitation- most children age out of criminal behavior by their mid-20s.

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court, drawing on brain and behavioral development research, has ruled three times within the last decade that children are constitutionally different from adults and should not be subject to our nation's harshest penalties. In 2005, the Supreme Court abolished the death penalty for children. The Court ruled in 2010 that it is unconstitutional to impose a life-without-parole sentence upon a child for a non-homicide crime.

WHEREAS, in 2012 the Supreme Court ruled in *Miller v. Alabama* that mandatory life-without-parole sentences for children violate the Eighth Amendment’s prohibition against cruel and unusual punishment. The Court held that a judge or jury must consider the unique attributes of youth when sentencing a child who could face life without parole, and must take into account how these differences counsel against imposing a life-without-parole sentence.

WHEREAS, the Court stated that life without parole is an inappropriate sentence in most instances. The Court-cited factors included:

- The child’s age and its features including immaturity, impetuosity, and failure to appreciate risks and consequences;
- The child’s family and home environment;
- The circumstances of the offense, including the extent of the child’s participation and the way familial and peer pressures may have affected his or her behavior;
- The child’s unsophistication in dealing with a criminal justice system that is designed for adults; and
- The possibility of rehabilitation.

WHEAREAS, the fiscal impact of these laws cannot be ignored. It costs approximately \$2.5 million to incarcerate a child for life in the United States. This diverts money from other public priorities. For example, the monies spent on incarcerating one child for life could educate approximately 169 students for a year. Taxpayers will spend an estimated \$6.2 billion for the lifetime incarceration of the approximately 2,500 people currently serving this sentence.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, LCLAA supports eliminating life without parole as a sentencing option for children. LCLAA demands just and age-appropriate accountability measures for children that will ensure that every child, regardless of offense, is given a meaningful opportunity to obtain release based on demonstrated maturity and rehabilitation.

RESOLVED, LCLAA calls upon State Legislatures across the country and the U.S. Congress to enact legislation that abolishes life without parole for children and provides them with meaningful and periodic sentencing reviews. These legislative changes should be applied both retroactively and prospectively so that no child is allowed to have their human rights violated because of when they were sentenced.

Respectfully submitted by the American Federation of Teachers (AFT)

REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE: _____

CONCURRENCE: _____ X _____

NON-CONCURRENCE: _____

31. CONDEMNING HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND SEX TRAFFICKING OF CHILDREN

WHEREAS, human trafficking is a global phenomenon that traps millions in cycles of exploitation for sex or labor and is often called “modern slavery”; it is a direct affront to individual human rights and jeopardizes community health; and

WHEREAS, worldwide, human trafficking generates about \$36 billion each year. About one of every four of those dollars circulates in the United States, where freedom is an inalienable right; and

WHEREAS, commercial sex trafficking includes “the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision or obtaining of a person for the purposes of a commercial sex act.” Children in “the life” are considered victims of severe forms of trafficking—and they are in our schools; and

WHEREAS, every year, hundreds of thousands of children, mostly girls in early adolescence, are at risk of being trafficked. They are subject to physical, verbal and sexual abuse. Specifically, they face social isolation, lack of care, manipulation and severe health concerns, including HIV. Getting out of the life isn’t easy—many are trauma-bonded with those who exploit them and must overcome stigmatization and post-traumatic stress. In some states, they also face the threat of a criminal record; and

WHEREAS, research by the Polaris Project indicates that the majority of trafficked persons come from vulnerable groups, including undocumented migrants, runaways and at-risk youth, oppressed and marginalized groups, and the poor, and that this occurs specifically because they are easiest to recruit and control. Many of these young people are our students; and

WHEREAS, organizations such as the Polaris Project and Fair Girls have been incredible leaders in establishing and maintaining infrastructure to combat child sex trafficking and education about this issue. In 2013, the Trafficking Victims Protection Act was reauthorized to protect and prevent. Yet there is work to be done; and

WHEREAS, with the right training, paraprofessionals, teachers and school personnel can be first responders in this national emergency. Schools can be part of the frontline to combat the marginalization, criminalization and exploitation of our most vulnerable;

RESOLVED, that the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement supports the fight to end human trafficking and especially condemn the ongoing exploitation and profit from sex trafficking with children; and

RESOLVED, that the LCLAA provide outside guidance to inform and educate LCLAA members and it’s allies about the issue of sex trafficking and what they can do to take action against it; and

RESOLVED, that LCLAA help *prevent* child trafficking by providing training and appropriate guidance to ensure members have the skills to identify indicators of children at risk and to identify signs of child trafficking. This should include, but not be limited to, educational materials describing indicators of child exploitation/trafficking, workshops at conferences sponsored by LCLAA, educational materials such as palm cards and articles in LCLAA publications; and

RESOLVED, that the LCLAA *combat* child trafficking by providing training and appropriate guidance to ensure members have the skills to safely report suspicious activity to the right authorities and agencies

such as the National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children; and

RESOLVED, that the LCLAA *address* the consequences of human trafficking by supporting programs that counteract victims' criminalization and stigmatization, educate victims about their rights and opportunities, facilitate social reintegration, advance educational opportunities and assist in obtaining sustainable employment; and

RESOLVED, that the LCLAA *reclaim the promise* of healthy communities by supporting legislation to eradicate human trafficking in the United States and abroad.

Respectfully submitted by the American Federation of Teachers (AFT)

REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE: _____

CONCURRENCE: _____ X _____

NON-CONCURRENCE: _____

32.INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN CRISIS AT THE U.S. BORDER

WHEREAS, the current influx of children at the U.S. border is an international humanitarian crisis in desperate need of resolution; and

WHEREAS, thousands of young lives are in jeopardy as children seek refuge, fleeing communities overrun by organized crime, violence, human trafficking and persecution; and

WHEREAS, Honduras and El Salvador lead the world in homicide rates. San Pedro Sula in Honduras is the world's murder capital. In 2013, the homicide rate was 187 homicides per 100,000 inhabitants driven by a surge in gang and drug-trafficking violence. In 2011, El Salvador ranked second in terms of homicides in Latin America with Guatemala not far behind, making the Northern Triangle one the deadliest regions in the world; and

WHEREAS, the number of unaccompanied children at the border, which was 5,200 in 2012, has swelled to more than 52,000 this year—and it could reach 90,000 by the end of September; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) report found that the majority of unaccompanied children (60 percent) said they were seeking protection because they experienced or were in serious risk of violence in their home country; and

WHEREAS, children have been forced into overcrowded detention centers with unsanitary conditions; and

WHEREAS, an administrative complaint has been filed by a number of civil liberty and immigrant rights organizations, including the National Immigrant Justice Center (NIJC) and the ACLU Border Litigation Project, with the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties as well as the DHS Office of the Inspector General—the department's only mechanism for seeking redress—on behalf of more than 100 unaccompanied immigrant children. The complaint includes allegations of abuse and mistreatment while in the custody of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, (CBP) including sexual assault, beatings, racially and sexually charged comments and death threats. Children also consistently reported being held in unsanitary and overcrowded conditions beyond the legally mandated 72-hour period; and

WHEREAS, the United States is a great and diverse nation, founded by immigrants fleeing persecution and seeking a safer, more prosperous life:

RESOLVED, that the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement call for an immediate response from the federal government to the humanitarian refugee crisis at the U.S. border that puts the safety and well-being of children first while seeking resolution to the root causes of the forced migration of children from Central America; and

RESOLVED, that LCLAA strongly condemns the criminalization of the children fleeing Central America and the ill treatment of children in the detention centers and calls for a thorough investigation of the

treatment children have received while in detention centers. LCLAA also calls for greater access by human rights, civic, labor and faith groups to places where children are being held; and

RESOLVED, that the LCLAA demands that Congress authorize needed funding to provide immediate relief aid to the humanitarian crisis at the U.S. border in order to meet the immediate needs of the children being detained in inhumane conditions; and

RESOLVED, that LCLAA call on the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Justice, and the Department of Health and Human Services to treat the crisis at the border as a refugee crisis that puts the interest of children first and, whenever possible, to extend the same humanitarian protections we have offered others around the world in similar circumstances under the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act; and

RESOLVED, that LCLAA demand an expansion of the protections afforded to children under the TVPRA and strongly opposes any efforts to change the law that would jeopardize the safety and well-being of children.

RESOLVED, that LCLAA calls for due process that provides all children with adequate protections and legal services including a legal advocate who can provide children with guidance through the legal process. Children should be provided with culturally sensitive mental and physical health assessments by DHS, including adequate screening methods by trained DHS agents for children who identify as LGBT; and

RESOLVED, that LCLAA commit to working with civic leaders, clergy, refugee and immigrant rights groups, labor and other community organizations to ensure that children's health, educational, safety and legal needs are being met.

Respectfully submitted by the American Federation of Teachers (AFT)

REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE: _____

CONCURRENCE: _____ X _____

NON-CONCURRENCE: _____

33. RESTORE THE VOTING RIGHTS OF ALL AMERICANS

WHEREAS, in the last several years there have been numerous attack on the voting rights of Americans; and

WHEREAS, these attacks have been premised on the false claims that America is threatened with high levels of voter fraud; and

WHEREAS, the attacks have been conducted particularly through voter ID laws which are publicly acknowledged voter suppression laws, and also through other suppression and disenfranchisement strategies that include, but are not limited to, the reduction of early voting days and times, insufficient or outdated and malfunctioning voting machines, biased and unlawful purging of voter rolls, specifically focused barriers; and

WHEREAS, studies by nonpartisan organizations such as Judicial Watch and the Brennan Center for Justice have indicated that the majority of these laws and strategies disproportionately affect Latinos, elderly, poor, young people and other underrepresented groups and include, but are not limited to, a disproportionate number of provisional and discarded ballots, voting machine malfunctions, incorrect voter notification, high numbers of flipped votes and lost ballots; and

WHEREAS, investigations have indicated that the majority of voting machines are owned by private companies that have publicly declared their allegiance to a single political party, and that the dangers of hacking such machines has been proven to be high, according to research; and

WHEREAS, the actions taken to suppress votes have been led in large part by organizations such as the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), the far-right corporate collaborative led by the Koch brothers, with resources to contribute to this movement being in the millions of dollars, risking the undue control of our nation by a few wealthy individuals rather than the democratic whole of our society; and

WHEREAS, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 had sections declared unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court in 2013; and

WHEREAS, most of the Voting Rights Act was found to be constitutional by the same U.S. Supreme Court; and

WHEREAS, 7 million Latinos eligible to vote residing in jurisdictions subject to preclearance pre-Shelby Co. have lost proactive protections under the VRA; and

WHEREAS, more than 14 million Latinos eligible to vote live in jurisdictions that provide Spanish language assistance under Section 203 of the VRA would benefit from eligibility for assignment of federal observers, whose presence would help ensure compliance with the VR laws. Their oversight promotes compliance with language assistance requirement by jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, the key provisions in the VRA struck down by the Supreme Court dealt with the ability of the federal government through the U.S. Department of Justice to intervene in cases where states denied citizens the right to vote; and

WHEREAS, these same citizens are not only citizens of their respective states but also citizens of the United States, according to the 14th Amendment;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that LCLAA demand restoring the Voting Rights Act to ensure that purges of voter rolls that do not disenfranchise legally registered voters; protection from use of privately owned and controlled voting machines with insufficient safeguards against hacking; equal and easy access to voting, including, but not limited to, working and updated voting machines with paper records, locations near voters' homes, comfortable voting locations for all voters, and early voting times and days; consistency in standards across the nation in guidelines that protect voters' rights, provide freedom from harassment at the polls and reduce long lines for voters; protection from any efforts to rig the Electoral College or other gerrymandering; modernizing voter registration to reduce dangers of misspelling, wrong addresses and legal name changes; ease in registering citizens to vote and protection against unreasonable obstructions to registration; protection against misleading or biased information being distributed to voters by state or local governments; sufficient lead times in any changes in voting times, locations, procedures, or other regulations and rules governing voting so that the courts can examine the changes as appropriate to their purview, and the voters have sufficient notice of the changes, and the changes do not affect their right to vote; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that LCLAA calls on both houses of Congress to adopt a Voting Rights Act which fundamentally restores the powers of the federal government declared invalid in Section 4b by the U.S. Supreme Court in 2013.

Respectfully submitted by the American Federation of Teachers (AFT)

REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE: _____

CONCURRENCE: _____ X _____

NON-CONCURRENCE: _____