



MA AFL-CIO Constitutional Convention

September 25-27, 2019

Resolution in Support of Comprehensive Immigration Reform to Benefit All Working People

WHEREAS The corporate class and the 1% continue to consolidate their wealth and power by exploiting working people and appealing to division and hatred, which inevitably make us all weaker and poorer;

WHEREAS Our government currently spends twelve times more to enforce immigration laws than it does to enforce the labor laws meant to protect nearly 150 million workers. This imbalance makes all workplaces less safe and emboldens bad employers, who face little risk of consequence for stealing wages, exploiting workers and busting unions;

WHEREAS Immigration enforcement tactics like raids breed fear in our communities and chill the exercise of basic workplace rights. The right way to raise wages and standards is by empowering workers and creating pathways to citizenship for all those whose labor helps our country to prosper;

WHEREAS Family is the reason we go to work every day; unions categorically reject policies that tear families apart, yet what we see in our country today is a dramatic and deliberate increase in the casualties caused by our broken immigration system. More than 3,000 children have been separated from their parents at our border, tens of thousands of families are imprisoned for profit, and more than a million working people with TPS and DACA have been stripped of their rights and status;

WHEREAS Real security can only be achieved through humane approaches, which is why we reject family and child detention and any limits on due process for vulnerable populations, and call instead for renewed efforts to address the root causes that force families to flee their homes;

WHEREAS The escalating attack on immigrant and refugee families in our country is an affront to labor values and a clear threat to the freedoms we all hold dear, and it demands an urgent response;

WHEREAS Solidarity among all working people is the source of worker power. This compels our movement to demand justice for long-term members of our communities, our workforce, and our unions, as well as for those who newly seek refuge in our country; therefore be it

RESOLVED the MA AFL-CIO rejects the politics of division and demands that our elected officials do the same; and be it further

RESOLVED the MA AFL-CIO considers immigration reform a key part of our agenda to rewrite the rules of the economy to put people over profit and halt runaway inequality; and be it further

RESOLVED the MA AFL-CIO and its affiliates will provide training to correct misinformation and build a shared understanding among working people that unjust immigration policies are part of the rigged system that makes it harder for us all to get ahead; and be it further

RESOLVED the MA AFL-CIO and its affiliates will conduct political education programs to prevent immigration from being used as a wedge issue to divide our members and working class voters in the 2020 election; and be it further

RESOLVED the MA AFL-CIO will equip our unions and labor councils with the tools and information they need to prepare for and respond to immigration raids and other attacks on our members and our communities; and be it further

RESOLVED the MA AFL-CIO and its affiliates will train union leaders and staff on effective organizing and bargaining strategies to build a strong, inclusive and democratic movement for justice for all working families; and be it further

RESOLVED the MA AFL-CIO advocates for reforms to create an immigration system that helps to lift labor standards and ensure that we are all able to live and work with dignity, regardless of where we were born.

Respectfully submitted,

President Steven A. Tolman and Secretary-Treasurer Lou Mandarini