



League of United Latin American Citizens

RESOLUTION TO DEMAND A FEDERAL APOLOGY FOR ITS ROLE IN THE MASSIVE DEPORTATION OF MEXICANS AND MEXICAN AMERICAN CITIZENS DURING THE GREAT DEPRESSION

WHEREAS, LULAC is our Nation's oldest, largest, and most respected Hispanic/Latino civil rights organization, established in 1929. Our mission is to seek the advancement of Hispanic Americans in the areas of education, employment, and civil rights; and

WHEREAS, beginning in 1929, government authorities and certain private sector entities in California and throughout the United States undertook an aggressive program to forcibly remove persons of Mexican ancestry from the United States; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that two million people of Mexican ancestry were forcibly relocated to Mexico, approximately 1.2 million of whom had been born in the United States; and

WHEREAS, massive raids were conducted on Mexican-American communities, resulting in the clandestine removal of thousands of people, many of whom were never able to return to the United States, their country of birth; and

WHEREAS, these raids also had the effect of coercing thousands of people to leave the country in the face of threats and acts of violence; and

WHEREAS, these raids targeted persons of Mexican ancestry with authorities and others indiscriminately characterizing these persons as "illegal aliens" even when they were United States citizens or permanent legal residents; and

WHEREAS, authorities instituted programs to wrongfully remove persons of Mexican ancestry and to secure transportation arrangements with railroads, automobiles, ships, and airlines to effectuate the wholesale removal of persons out of the United States to Mexico; and

WHEREAS, as a result of these illegal activities, families were forced to abandon, or were defrauded of, personal and real property, which often was sold by local authorities as "payment" for the transportation expenses incurred in their removal from the United States to Mexico; and

WHEREAS, as a further result of these illegal activities, United States citizens and legal residents were separated from their families and country, were deprived of their livelihood, and were deprived of their United States Constitutional rights; and

WHEREAS, as a further result of these illegal activities, United States citizens were deprived of the right to participate in the political process guaranteed to all citizens, thereby resulting in the tragic denial of due process and equal protection of the laws; and

WHEREAS, the State of California apologized to those individuals described in SB 670 for the fundamental violations of their basic civil liberties and Constitutional rights committed during the period of illegal deportation and coerced emigration; and

WHEREAS, in 2005, the State of California passed SB 670 where it apologized for its role in the illegal and unconstitutional massive deportations that took place during the Great Depression; and

WHEREAS, in 2012 the State of California apologized to the families and survivors of the Mexican “Repatriation” Program of the 1930s at a public Apology Ceremony in the City of Los Angeles; and

WHEREAS, in 2017, Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard reintroduced H.R. 1412 to establish the first ever official commission to study the Mexican “Repatriation” of the 1930s, and recommend appropriate legislative remedies;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the League of United Latin American Citizens National Board, on behalf of its members, urge Members of Congress to

- Establish a commission to look into the role of the federal government in the Massive Unconstitutional Deportations of Mexicans and Mexican Americans during the Great Depression
- Require the Federal government to apologize for its role in the Massive Unconstitutional Deportations of Mexicans and Mexican Americans during the Great Depression

Voted & approved by the National Assembly of the 2018 LULAC National Convention on July 21, 2018.

Domingo Garcia
LULAC National President