



League of United Latin American Citizens

TITLE: FEDERAL APOLOGY FOR ITS ROLE IN THE MASSIVE ILLEGAL DEPORTATION OF MEXICAN AND MEXICAN AMERICAN CITIZENS DURING THE GREAT DEPRESSION

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

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.

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

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.

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.

WHEREAS, the State of California regrets the suffering and hardship those individuals and their families endured as a direct result of the government sponsored Mexican “Repatriation” Program of the 1930s.

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

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.

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

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 Illegal Deportations of Mexicans and Mexican Americans During the Great Depression
- require the Federal government to apologize for its role in the Massive Illegal Deportations of Mexicans and Mexican Americans During the Great Depression

Submitted by M. Guadalupe Espinoza Anaheim Council #2848 on April 3, 2019

Voted & approved by the National Assembly of the 2019 LULAC National Convention on July 13, 2019.



Domingo Garcia
LULAC National President