



Coalition of Bar Associations of Color

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY
AND THE U.S. DECENNIAL CENSUS AND USE OF THEIR DATA AS ADVOCACY TOOLS**

Endorsed March 2016

WHEREAS, the Coalition of Bar Associations of Color (CBAC), organized in 1992, is a coalition created to act as a collective voice for issues of common concern to its member organizations; and

WHEREAS, the member organizations of the CBAC are the Hispanic National Bar Association (HNBA), the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA), the National Bar Association (NBA), and the National Native American Bar Association (NNABA); and

WHEREAS, the member organizations of CBAC are the national voices of their respective legal communities in the United States and its territories and possessions; and

WHEREAS, accurate data on communities of color are critical to ensuring our communities' needs are met by local, state, and federal governments and have been pivotal in advancing civil rights because the data instantly illuminate—through hard numbers and statistics—any unequal opportunity and unequal access; and

WHEREAS, such data underscore trends of both the needs of and opportunities for communities of color, who are unified by experiences of historic and current discrimination that affect communities broadly; and

WHEREAS, while common experiences bind communities of color, vast diversity exists within these groups, requiring accurate and disaggregated data to identify areas of disparate opportunity and access; and

WHEREAS, current federal reporting requirements in education refer to a combined “Asian American/Pacific Islander” category that hides major achievement gaps facing Asian Pacific American (APA) ethnic groups as not all segments of the APA community have the same educational experience; and

WHEREAS, the decennial census provides the complete count of all persons in the United States every 10 years and the American Community Survey (ACS) provides important socioeconomic data based on a sample every year, broken down by disaggregated categories; and

WHEREAS, only two years remain before the start of the critical end-to-end readiness test, and four years before decennial census preparations are in full swing, and the Census Bureau is already engaging in testing and decision-making; and

WHEREAS, some members of Congress consistently attempt to attach riders to appropriations bills to make responses to the ACS voluntary, which has been shown through testing to negatively impact response rates and, thus, the quality of data captured; and

WHEREAS, the ACS provides data used to determine which jurisdictions will be covered for specific Asian, Spanish, and other language assistance under Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act, including limited English proficiency and illiteracy rates, without such data new jurisdictions cannot be added for Asian language assistance and current jurisdictions may be at risk of being dropped from coverage.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CBAC supports full funding by Congress for the Census Bureau during the appropriations process and opposes all effort to reduce such funding; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CBAC opposes all efforts to make responses to the ACS voluntary, and recognizes that efforts that result in fewer or no completed ACS forms may result in fewer or no new or current jurisdictions covered under Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act for Asian, Spanish, and other language assistance, and that such efforts must be opposed; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CBAC supports the use of ACS and Census data to advance laws and policies addressing inequities in opportunities and access for communities of color; and

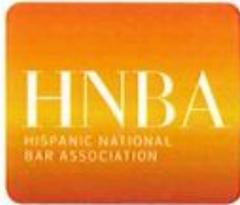
NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CBAC recognizes the importance of disaggregated data and supports efforts to improve data collection about communities of color, including, but not limited to, the All Students Count Act (H.R. 717 and S. 389, 2015); and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this resolution shall be the legislative priority of the CBAC until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

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CERTIFICATION

WE, the duly-elected Presidents of the Hispanic National Bar Association (HNBA), the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA), the National Bar Association (NBA), and the National Native American Bar Association (NNABA), hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly enacted by a duly noticed meeting of the Board of Directors.



Robert T. Maldonado

Roberto Maldonado
President, Hispanic National Bar Association

March 1, 2016
Date

Jim Y. Hwang

Jim Hwang
President, National Asian Pacific American Bar Association

March 1, 2016
Date

Benjamin Crump

Benjamin Crump
President, National Bar Association

March 1, 2016
Date

Linda Benally

Linda Benally
President, National Native American Bar Association

March 1, 2016
Date