

**Solidarity with Immigrant Workers and Families:
Submitted to CARA 2010 Convention, by SF Gray Panthers**

WHEREAS during periods of high unemployment and assaults on all working families' rights and living standards, there are frequently attacks on undocumented immigrants, accusing them of stealing jobs, overburdening social programs, and threatening national security, and

WHEREAS, anti-immigrant rhetoric is being used to hide the real cause of unemployment, namely free trade and the inevitable collapse of bubble economies based on speculation; and the real cause of shortages of social programs, namely 40 years of tax cuts and loopholes for corporations and the rich, and 20 years of wars for US control of oil and pipelines for oil and gas, all of which hurts citizen and immigrant workers alike, and

WHEREAS the Obama Administration, which had promised more humane immigration policy, has actually (1) increased raids, detentions, and deportations far beyond the Bush administration, and (2) initiated Secure Communities, a program where all arrestees' fingerprints are shared with immigration police, regardless of how trivial the charges are, or whether they are later dropped, and

WHEREAS the Obama Administration actively promotes immigration reform that (1) makes legalization of undocumented immigrants extremely difficult because of wait times, fees, fines, and language requirements, (2) requires all US residents, citizen and immigrant alike, to carry biometric national identity cards or face arrest, (3) keeps undocumented immigrant workers and their families in constant fear from increasing raids, detentions, deportations, and border security, while (4) allowing employers increased freedom to hire contract immigrant Guest Workers who labor in a state of virtual bondage because they are "legal" only while working for the employer they were contracted to, making it harder for them to organize unions, raise wages, and defend their rights, reminiscent of the hated "bracero" program of the 1950s, and

WHEREAS, free trade agreements such as NAFTA and CAFTA cause the extreme overseas poverty that drives immigrants into the US, as well as allowing companies to ship US jobs overseas,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that CARA re-affirms the age-old truth that wages, working conditions, and living standards of ALL workers and their families are dragged down by increased exploitation and intimidation of the most vulnerable sector of workers, and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that CARA affirms the rights of all persons, whether citizen or immigrant, to protections of the Bill of Rights, due process, access to public resources, as well as living wages, dignified and safe working conditions, and the right to organize unions, and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that CARA opposes NAFTA, CAFTA, and immigration reform based on border militarization; delayed and burdensome legalization of undocumented immigrants; increased raids, detention, and deportation of undocumented immigrants; and importation of contract Guest Workers, as proposed by the President, and

FURTHER RESOLVED that CARA apprise national ARA of this resolution and the reasons for it.

Passed: October 2010