



Jesse Arreguín
Councilmember, District 4

CONSENT CALENDAR
June 1, 2010

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Councilmembers Jesse Arreguín and Linda Maio
Subject: Urging the Inclusion of the Uniting American Families Act in the Comprehensive Immigration Reform Bill

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a Resolution urging the inclusion of the Uniting American Families Act in the Comprehensive Immigration Reform Bill.

BACKGROUND:

As immigration reform becomes front and center, particularly in the aftermath of SB 1070 in Arizona, it is important that any comprehensive immigration reform bill that is considered include the Uniting American Families Act (UAFAs).

The UAFAs bill amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to eliminate discrimination in the immigration laws by permitting permanent partners of United States citizens and lawful permanent residents to obtain lawful permanent resident status in the same manner as spouses of citizens and lawful permanent residents. 22 other countries recognize same-sex couples under immigration law, such as France, Germany, Israel, and the United Kingdom among others and comprehensive immigration reform should include all immigrants, including lesbian and gay immigrants.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

None

CONTACT PERSON:

Jesse Arreguín, Councilmember, District 4 981-7140

Attachments:

1. Resolution
2. Copy of Uniting American Families Act

RESOLUTION NO.

URGING THE INCLUSION OF THE UNITING AMERICAN FAMILIES ACT IN THE
COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM BILL

WHEREAS, the history of the United States is rich with the stories and contributions of immigrants seeking to fulfill their dreams in the Land of Opportunity; and

WHEREAS, immigrants contribute to the vibrancy and diversity of American culture and values, and additionally provide significant economic contributions; and

WHEREAS, immigration has always been a hotly debated issue, but has become front and center in current political conversation in light of the misguided, draconian law SB 1070 in Arizona; and

WHEREAS, it is widely agreed that our immigration system is broken and needs to be updated to reflect their current realities surrounding our need for a fair and humane immigration system; and

WHEREAS, President Obama has pledged to undertake the task of comprehensive immigration reform this year; and

WHEREAS, comprehensive immigration reform should take a holistic view of the issue of immigration and include all immigrants, including lesbian and gay immigrants; and

WHEREAS, current US Immigration Law allows for the spouses of US Citizens to become lawful permanent residents, but does not extend the same process for same-sex couples; and

WHEREAS, 22 other countries recognize same-sex couples under immigration law, such as France, Germany, Israel, and the United Kingdom among others; and

WHEREAS, the Uniting American Families Act (UAFAs), as introduced in the House and the Senate, will eliminate [discrimination](#) in the immigration laws by permitting [permanent partners](#) of United States citizens to obtain lawful permanent resident status in the same manner as spouses of citizens.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Berkeley urges President Obama and the leaders of the United States Senate and House of Representatives to include the Uniting American Families Act in any comprehensive immigration reform bill that moves forward.