

Resolution #16

SUPPORT IMMIGRANT WORKERS

PRESENTED BY: **ROOFERS AND WATERPROOFERS LOCAL 36 AND UFCW LOCAL 324**

WHEREAS, every day, more than 11 million immigrants aspiring to be citizens contribute to our communities, our economy, and our country—yet are denied a voice in the workplace and essential rights in our society all to maintain a system of oppression; and

WHEREAS, the conservatives judges on the U.S. Supreme Court voted against implementing the President's Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents (DAPA) program for over 5 million undocumented immigrants, which would have granted them the ability to work legally and temporary relief from deportation; and

WHEREAS, the presumptive Republican presidential nominee continues to spew toxic and hateful speech to incite bigotry, xenophobia, and violence against immigrants to scapegoat them for our country's famine of economic opportunities for everyone; and

WHEREAS, greedy and unscrupulous employers and contractors continue to exploit immigrant workers to reap record profits and use their lack of status to continue lower and lower labor standards for ALL workers in a race to the bottom; and

WHEREAS, many immigrant workers make the courageous decision to stand with their co-workers to fight to form a union, employers continue to retaliate by firing workers, threatening deportation by calling ICE, and worse - use workers' family immigration status to instill fear and silence their voices on the job; and

WHEREAS, despite ICE's MOU from Homeland Security to not interfere with workplace immigration audits and raids wherever a labor dispute arises, like an organizing campaign, ICE refuses to honor its word; and

WHEREAS, mass deportations stemming from both workplace raids and raids in our communities continue to sever families apart in complete contradiction with our American values and ideals; and

WHEREAS, the prison and detention center industry enjoy multi-million dollar profits from treating human beings like cattle by detaining them and aiding the mass deportation pipeline of families; and

WHEREAS, the Union movement recognizes the way we treat new immigrants reflects our commitment to democracy and values that define us; and

WHEREAS, immigrant workers organized and founded our unions in the early to mid-20th Century, and the union movement is strongest when workers stand together and it is open to all workers, regardless of where they come from, because corporations don't see borders; and

WHEREAS, the migration of people is a global issue for survival, the Labor Movement remains committed to working together on the side of justice for all and passing comprehensive Immigration Reform, along with our community partners, and civil rights, human rights and immigrant rights organizations, that encompasses the principles of equality, fairness, and justice that strengthens our democracy;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we work to find every legislative and policy initiative that supports the rights of Immigrant workers to organize and that protects immigrant communities from being targets of the ICE deportation pipeline, like the TRUTH ACT currently in the CA legislature; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, we support the right of immigrant workers to vote in municipal elections in the state of California; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, we collaborate with community, interfaith and immigrant worker centers to open our union halls to host and expand immigration services clinics, workers' rights trainings, citizenship and voter registration efforts to not only organize workers but also organize our communities; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, we commit resources in our unions to organize immigrant workers in our sectors to build density and increase the power of the Labor Movement; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, we support the California Labor Partnership in Orange and Los Angeles counties to pilot and promote an Immigrant Worker Organizing Project and commend the AFL-CIO and the AFL-CIO Organizing Department for investing and funding the Immigrant Worker Organizing Project, with its goal to expand union organizing with Unions organizing immigrant workers in their sectors and especially to recruit and train passionate bilingual organizers through an organizing apprenticeship who reflect the diverse workforces in California. – both from our members and community/student activists to engage immigrant workers; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we invest in training our members, community and student activists from the Immigrant Rights' movement to become full-time organizers for our campaigns; and

AND BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, We fully support organizing campaigns knowing that every immigrant worker will only have rights and justice when s/he can successfully organize into a union and are protected by a union contract so that our unions will grow and become an even greater voice and power for worker justice.

Referred to: Committee

CALIFORNIA LABOR FEDERATION ☆ BIENNIAL CONVENTION 2016