



**RESOLUTION REGARDING THE
HUMANE ENFORCEMENT AND LEGAL PROTECTIONS (HELP) FOR
SEPARATED CHILDREN ACT**

WHEREAS in the last 10 years 108,434 parents of U.S. citizen children were deported¹ and four million U.S. citizen children have at least one undocumented immigrant parent;² and

WHEREAS our nation's immigration laws must be appropriately enforced, but we must also protect our nation's citizen children from unnecessary harm in the process; and

WHEREAS, the Humane Enforcement and Legal Protections for Separated Children Act or the HELP Separated Children Act as proposed on September 14, 2009 aligns with the vision of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges by supporting the access of children to fair, equal, effective and timely justice by requiring provisions in state plans for adoption and foster care assistance include provisions related to foster care children with a parent, legal guardian, or primary caregiver relative who is in immigration detainment or has been removed from the United States; and mandates vulnerable population and child welfare training for immigration enforcement personnel; and ensuring that immigration detention facilities take steps to preserve family unity;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges supports the passage of the Humane Enforcement and Legal Protections for Separated Children Act or the HELP Separated Children Act as proposed on September 14, 2009.

Adopted by the NCJFCJ Board of Trustees, July 21, 2010, San Diego, CA.

¹ See http://www.dhs.gov/xoig/assets/mgmtreports/OIG_09-15_Jan09.pdf.

² See <http://pewhispanic.org/files/reports/107.pdf> at p.7 ("In 2008, of the 5.5 million children of unauthorized immigrants, 4 million, or 73%, were born in the United States.").