ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 5-008

A RESOLUTION TO DEFEND IMMIGRANT SANCTUARY CITIES AND TO MAKE THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN A SANCTUARY CAMPUS FOR IMMIGRANTS, SUPPORT A STATEWIDE DREAM ACT AND PROVIDE FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIPS FOR UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS

WHEREAS, the world is going through one of the most massive relocations of humanity across national borders in world history. According to the United Nations, one out of every 122 people on Earth are displaced by war, violence and persecution; AND

WHEREAS, tens of thousands of refugees from the Middle East and Africa are making dangerous journeys to get into Europe every day. In 2015, 650,000 immigrants are estimated to have arrived in Europe by sea, and 3,138 refugees are reported to have died this year in the Mediterranean. Last year, at least 68,541 unaccompanied children crossed the southern border into the United States from various Central American countries; AND

WHEREAS, this worldwide mass migration is ongoing, and is profoundly transforming the appearance of many nations, including the U.S. Yet, as we become a majority-minority nation, enlarged by the continuous waves of immigrants from all over the world, especially from Mexico and Central America, there has not been a corresponding increase in the rights and status of racial and ethnic minorities; AND

WHEREAS, the state of Michigan is a historic place of refuge for immigrants from all over the world; including the largest Arab and Muslim population in the


world outside of the Middle East and a fast growing Latina/o community\(^5\), AND

WHEREAS, refugee children from Central America and more recently from war torn countries like Syria are already residing in cities like Detroit, Grand Rapids and Dearborn and more are on their way\(^6\); AND

WHEREAS, the student movement at the University of Michigan has won recently important victories for undocumented immigrant students (immigrants without legal documentation) – instate tuition\(^7\) and small scholarship pilot program that allotted $450,000 for undocumented undergraduate students for 2014-2015, to be reassessed for the following year\(^8\); AND

WHEREAS, the conditions for undocumented immigrant and international students are still far from equal. Undocumented students do not have access to Federal Financial Aid, and do not have access to state financial aid in the state of Michigan, and do not have access to other University of Michigan based scholarships other than the new scholarship program. Only 5-10% of undocumented high school graduates make it to college due to a lack of financial aid\(^9\); AND

WHEREAS, the continuation of the need-based financial aid program is not guaranteed, pending evaluation\(^10\); AND

WHEREAS, in 2011, the state of California passed the California DREAM Act, which opened access for state financial aid to undocumented students in California.\(^11\) The University of California at Berkeley has taken important steps in opening access to education and support for undocumented students by creating an undocumented student center to provide financial aid, free legal aid and covering the legal filing fees to apply for the

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\(^7\) https://www.michigandaily.com/news/regents-pass-measures-provide-state-tuition-undocumented-immigrants-and-veterans

\(^8\) https://www.michigandaily.com/article/coalition-tuition-equality-0

\(^9\) http://www.onlinecollege.org/2011/10/19/15-eye-opening-facts-on-undocumented-students/

\(^10\) http://www.finaid.umich.edu/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=Sl1aSkV7wKl%3d&tabid=183

\(^11\) http://www.e4fc.org/resources/californiadreamact.html
immigrant youth national work permit, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA); AND

WHEREAS, several major universities have explicitly stated that they welcome applications from undocumented students and state publicly that undocumented students are eligible for financial support, including Dartmouth, Stanford, Duke, and the University of Chicago.

WHEREAS, the University of Michigan has declared, “our dedication to academic excellence for the public good is inseparable from our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion.” for the University to actively pursue these goals, it is necessary for UM to stand with immigrant communities by adopting programs like Berkeley’s undocumented student center to open up access to education for immigrant students; AND

WHEREAS, the cities of Detroit and Ann Arbor are sanctuary cities for immigrants, meaning that local authorities are not supposed to turn over undocumented immigrants to ICE. These sanctuary cities have been recently threatened by proposed legislation in the Michigan state capitol, forcing city officials to publicly defend the importance of these sanctuaries against a dangerous precedent of open anti-immigrant bigotry and scapegoating from state and federal government officials, institutions and racists; AND

WHEREAS, this resolution seeks to defend the rights of immigrants at this University and prevent anti-immigrant bigotry on campus from becoming a real physical threat to immigrant students, faculty, staff and community members; THEREFORE BE IT,

RESOLVED, CSG urges President Schlissel and the Regents to issue a public declaration in support of the Sanctuary cities of Detroit and Ann Arbor; AND BE IT FURTHER,

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12 http://undocu.berkeley.edu/legal-support-overview/
13 http://money.cnn.com/2013/10/01/pf/college/undocumented-students/
14 http://diversity.umich.edu/our-commitment/
RESOLVED, CSG urges President Schlissel and the Regents to declare the UM campus a sanctuary campus for Immigrants, including its satellite campuses of Flint and Dearborn; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, CSG urges President Schlissel and the UM Regents to lead a joint call, with other Michigan universities, community colleges and other institutions to the State of Michigan to implement a statewide DREAM ACT, to provide state financial aid for undocumented students; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, CSG calls on the University to increase accessibility to undocumented students by publicizing and expanding the new scholarship program for undocumented students, and make the scholarship and in-state tuition available to undocumented graduate students; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, UM to reform Student Legal Services to provide free immigration-specific counseling and services for immigrant students, and funding to cover the legal filing fees for undocumented students to apply for Deferred Action Childhood Arrivals (DACA); AND BE IT FINALLY


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Presented to the Assembly for First Reads on _________________________
Presented to the Assembly for Second Reads on _________________________
Yes: _____  No: _____  Abs: _____  Date: _________________________
Signature Necessary: _____  Signature Received By _________________________: _____