



Respectfully submitted to the Board of Directors of California State University, Los Angeles, Associated Students, Inc.

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE FIGHT AGAINST THE BAN OF ETHNIC STUDIES PROGRAMS IN ARIZONA

Authored by Hector Escobar, College of Health and Human Services Representative

WHEREAS, The Associated Students, Inc. (A.S.I.) is the single recognized voice for over 20,000 students at California State University, Los Angeles (CSULA); and

WHEREAS, A key component of the mission of A.S.I. is to support legislation at both the State and Federal levels that provide service, programs, and protections that meet the educational, social, recreational, and cultural needs of the pluralistic community; and

WHEREAS, one purpose of the A.S.I. is to promote social justice by advocating for the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of laws, regulations, and policies; and

WHEREAS, [Arizona House Bill 2281](#), with the inclusion of [Arizona Revised Statutes 15-112](#) now signed into law and in effect as of January 1, 2011 prohibits courses that: promote the overthrow of the U.S. government; promote resentment toward a race or class of people; are designed primarily for students of a particular ethnic group; or advocate ethnic solidarity; and

WHEREAS, then-Arizona State Superintendent of Public Instruction (now Arizona State Attorney General) Tom Horne declared the Tucson Unified School District (TUSD) Mexican-American Studies program in violation of HB 2281; and

WHEREAS, TUSD currently operates several ethnic studies programs that include Pan Asian Studies, African American Studies, and Native American Studies; and

WHEREAS, this law is itself discriminatory in that it is being targeted at one specific group or program in the cohort, and not all of them; and

WHEREAS, current Arizona State Superintendent of Public Instruction John Huppenthal has told the Tucson district to stop teaching its Mexican-American Studies program or face losing \$15 million in annual state aid under the new law, a penalty that is 10 percent of the state's aid to the Tucson system, whose total operating budget is \$450 million a year; and

WHEREAS, Tucson's Mexican-American Studies program has reportedly been effective in encouraging college enrollment among Latino students and reducing dropout rates, discipline problems, poor attendance and failure rates; let it be

RESOLVED, that A.S.I. questions the validity and constitutionality of the use of Arizona House Bill 2281 and Arizona Revised Statutes 15-112 to target TUSD's Mexican-American Studies program or any other legitimate ethnic studies program; and let it also be

RESOLVED, that A.S.I. endorses the fight against HB 2281 and supports the [11 TUSD Mexican-American Studies teachers](#) in their lawsuit against the Arizona Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Arizona State Board of Education; and let it also be

RESOLVED, that A.S.I. pledges to take action to defend public education and the promotion of ethnic studies programs; and let it further be

RESOLVED, that A.S.I. stands in solidarity with all sectors of public education, including students, teachers, staff, and workers in the K-12 and higher education sectors who are fighting to defend students' right and access to the study of ethnic history and heritage; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that copies of this Resolution be distributed widely, including, but not limited to CSULA President James M. Rosser, CSU Chancellor Charles B. Reed; the CSU Board of Trustees, the California State Student Association, the CSULA University Times, Arizona State Attorney General Tom Horne, Arizona Superintendent of Public Instruction John Huppenthal, and the Tucson Unified School District to inform them of our commitment to take action to fight any ban on ethnic studies.