

*Remarks by Judy Appel, president of the Berkeley Unified School District School Board, in support of the New Border Vision, 1/28/20*

I am Judy Appel, President of the Berkeley School Board. On behalf of Berkeley Unified SD, and the full School Board we want to thank the Southern Border Communities Coalition, Berkeley Law, and Berkeley High students who worked so hard to bring this New Border Vision resolution to the BUSD Board.

We are proud that we are the first school district to endorse the New Border Vision reflected in this resolution as it is consistent with our value and our actions.

As the resolution indicates, Berkeley Unified has been at the forefront of public school districts who have acted to protect members of our immigrant and undocumented communities in a number of ways, both long before and after the election of our current president. The principles imbedded in the resolution are core to us and we are mindful that every child, regardless of immigration status, has equal access to our schools and all they have to offer. We don't ask a student's immigration status. It does not impact our commitment to equity and education for *all* our children.

This resolution expands on that vision and recognizes the rights and the dignity of all people, all families, all immigrants, at our borders.

For far too long, federal border authorities have abused their powers with impunity. They have repeatedly threatened the livelihoods of immigrant children in our schools, going to and from school, when families pick up their children jeopardizing the civil liberties of 200 million Americans and residents.

This was intensified yesterday when the Supreme Court affirmed President Trump's new policy which targets low-income legal immigrants' right to stay in the United States because their lack of financial resources is judged to indicate they will be eligible for public benefits. This wrong decision does not serve the health and well-being of anyone. It is unAmerican. It is spiteful and is a blatant abuse to an already threatened and fearful population in our communities.

Through this resolution, Berkeley Unified demands that our federal government leads with *our* values and adheres to good governance principles. It is time that we create humane and well-functioning borders for the 21st century for the sake of our children and youth in our schools and communities.

We invite you, along with other cities, mayors, school board members, and elected officials in office and/or running for office that live within 100 miles of any land or maritime border, to protest and pass current policies and the hate underlying them, through resolutions that promote this new progressive humanitarian vision, because every person deserves to live in a safe community, especially those who are most vulnerable, and are without both vote and voice.