



## **RESOLUTION SUPPORTING STATE COURT INTERPRETER GRANT PROGRAM ACT**

**WHEREAS**, Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act and an August 11, 2000 Executive Order 13166, issued by the Department of Justice, require all State courts receiving Federal financial assistance to provide accurate language interpretation of court proceedings for limited English speaking persons; and

**WHEREAS**, the justice system relies upon the ability of all courtroom participants to understand court proceedings, regardless of their English proficiency; and

**WHEREAS**, the lack of functioning court interpreter programs may cause the justice system delay in proceedings and risk decisions based on inaccurate information; and

**WHEREAS**, approximately 19 percent of the population over the age of 5 speak a language, other than English, at home; and

**WHEREAS**, some States have developed, are developing or have yet to develop court interpreter programs; and

**WHEREAS**, State Court Interpreter Grant Program Act (S.702), introduced by Senator Kohl (D-WI) would, if passed, encourage states to improve access to justice for individuals with limited English proficiency (LEP) through funding it would make available to qualifying states.

**WHEREAS**, S. 702 would provide funding to develop, implement and enhance court interpreter programs to establish fair access and understanding to court proceedings; and

**WHEREAS**, S.702 would help expedite court proceedings through increased access to qualified court interpreters; and

**WHEREAS**, S. 702 would increase access to justice for individuals with LEP by increasing their participation in court proceedings;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Coalition of Bar Associations of Color (CBAC) supports the passing of the State Court Interpreter Grant Program Act (S.702) and similar measures and legislation for the reasons set forth above; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Coalition of Bar Associations of Color (CBAC) recommends adding tribal courts as eligible entities for direct grants under this legislation; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Coalition of Bar Associations of Color (CBAC) authorizes its officers and staff to communicate the content of this resolution to other minority bar association members, members of U.S. Senate, the press, and to whomever else the CBAC Board deems suitable to receive the information.

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that this resolution shall be the policy of the Coalition of Bar Associations of Color until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

**CERTIFICATION**

WE, the duly-elected Presidents of the Hispanic National Bar Association (HNBA), National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA), National Bar Association (NBA), and National Native American Bar Association (NNABA), hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly enacted by a duly-noticed meeting of the Coalition of the Bar Associations of Color Board of Directors.



NNABA

Vickie M. Marquez  
President, Hispanic National Bar Association

5/15/08  
Date

Vanita M. Banks  
President, National Bar Association

5/15/08  
Date

HEATHER DAWN THOMPSON  
President, National Native American Bar Association

5/15/08  
Date

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President, National Asian Pacific American Bar Association

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Date