

New MEA Resolution # 8

Title: Immigration

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Representing MEA Local/Region: MEA Resolutions Committee

Text of proposal:

The Michigan Education Association supports efforts to improve the immigration process, including the provision of due process, equal protection, and access to status without regard to ethnicity, religion, or national origin.

The Association also supports policies that protect the integrity of the family unit, including mixed-status families, and deplores the hardships and trauma imposed on families when family members, especially spouses and partners, parents, guardians, or caretakers, are detained and/or deported for immigration status offenses and thereby separated from their children, many of whom are U.S. citizens. The Association also believes that the spouses of U.S. citizens must not be permanently barred from the process of acquiring their legal status or reunifying with a spouse who has been deported or exiled. The ability of citizens to challenge decisions, such as denials of visas or deportation, that separate them from their spouses or children must be ensured. The Association supports expansion of immigration pathways and programs that will enable U.S. citizens to remain together and be reunited with their spouses and children in the U.S.

The Association supports equal access to educational opportunities for immigrants. The Association believes that English, adult education, GED, and citizenship classes should be available in sufficient numbers to ensure that immigrants can comply with all federal mandates for permanent residence and/or citizenship. The Association also believes that the federal government is responsible for the enforcement of immigration policy.

The Association recognizes that historically there have been many economic and/or political circumstances that have compelled people to come to the U.S. The Association opposes any immigration policy that denies human and/or civil rights

or educational opportunities to immigrants and their children, hinders workers' abilities to organize, imposes excessive fees and fines on those seeking legalization, or criminalizes individuals or groups who support or assist them. The Association also opposes any policy that makes legalization or naturalization dependent upon military service and/or service in a combat zone. The Association condemns such policies as inhumane and discriminatory.

The Association further believes that federal decisions regarding the status of accompanied and unaccompanied immigrant children must always be made in the best interests of the child. Children who qualify for international protection must have their educational needs met while being given the time and resources, including court-appointed counsel, to have their cases fairly heard. The Association believes that children should not be separated from their parents/guardians. Therefore, the best placement for these children is in a family setting and not in detention facilities.

Rationale:

The Michigan Education Association's Resolutions document does not adequately address immigration. The above language was adopted by the National Education Association at the 2025 RA.