



**NEW YORK CITY
CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL, AFL-CIO**

President
VINCENT ALVAREZ
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**NEW YORK CITY CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL, AFL-CIO RESOLUTION
Resolution in Support of Coalition Building towards Pro-Worker Immigration Policies
Adopted October 4, 2022**

WHEREAS, undocumented workers have contributed to our communities, our economy, our unions and our country – yet are denied a voice in the workplace and essential rights in our society; and

WHEREAS, a strong and dynamic labor movement will continue to stand side-by-side with all workers regardless of their language, country of origin, race, or immigration status; and

WHEREAS, immigration reform is a necessary tool to strengthen our democracy and build an economy that works for the many and not just a privileged few; and

WHEREAS, a shocking \$3.4 billion in stolen wages were recovered between 2017 and 2020 by the U.S. Department of Labor, state agencies, and class action suits, making clear that wage theft is rampant in our country and our industries; and

WHEREAS, Congress created U-Visas to strengthen the ability of law enforcement agencies to investigate and prosecute certain crimes by extending protections to immigrant victims who fear cooperating with agencies due to their status; and

WHEREAS, the inclusion of wage theft as a qualifying crime for U-Visas could provide relief and a pathway to citizenship for impacted workers and support union efforts to hold unscrupulous employers accountable for stealing from workers and other labor violations; and

WHEREAS, the impact of this shift in policy could be magnified by removing the cap on the number of U-Visas issued each year, a change which only Congress can make; and



WHEREAS, the Biden Administration has the authority to provide temporary status protections and work permits to workers who take action to enforce our labor laws, and is currently approving applications from workers; and

WHEREAS, the pathway to fixing an unjust, exploitative system will require continued partnership from organized and unorganized labor; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the New York City Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO will continue to work with allies and affiliates to promote pro-worker immigration policies from all branches of government, based on the principles outlined in this resolution; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the New York City Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO will take steps to ensure that affiliates and allies have tools and information to access new protections for immigrant workers, including materials, training, and case support.

Submitted by New York State District Council of Ironworkers

