Resolution Affirming Support for Governor Newsom’s Plan to Provide COVID-19 Relief for Undocumented Residents and Opposing the Lawsuit That Has Been Filed to Stop It –

WHEREAS, Governor Newsom announced a plan on April 16, 2020 to provide $75 million in COVID-19 relief funds for undocumented residents in California who do not qualify for unemployment benefits.

WHEREAS, Rio Hondo College joins residents of the City of Whittier who oppose the emergency petition lawsuit that was recently filed by the nonprofit Center for American Liberty and two plaintiffs with the California Supreme Court to request a stay on the Governor’s action.

WHEREAS, the Governor’s plan will award funding to non-profit organizations that will provide $500 to each immigrant without legal status and up to $1,000 per household.

WHEREAS, Río Hondo College has remained committed to providing educational opportunities to students of all backgrounds regardless of citizenship or residential status.

WHEREAS, Rio Hondo College has been intentional about fostering a campus climate that has been supportive of the self-empowerment of undocumented students and all DREAMERS, including the creation of a Student Success and Dream Center.

WHEREAS, hundreds of DREAMERS currently enrolled at Rio Hondo College are included among the working families who reside in Rio Hondo College District communities – including the City of Whittier -- and stand to benefit from Governor Newsom’s plan.

WHEREAS, investment in the health and welfare of undocumented students and residents already living here will reap dividends in the future when these students and residents become contributors to the economy and leaders in our community for decades.

WHEREAS, undocumented workers address the essential needs of tens of millions of Californians in food gathering and other essential services daily.

WHEREAS, Rio Hondo College stands in full support of the Governor’s intention to assist all Californians affected by COVID-19 and is especially supportive of efforts to benefit the health and economic well-being of undocumented families disproportionately impacted by COVID-19.

WHEREAS, the Governor’s plan to provide support to undocumented families is aligned with Rio Hondo College Value 2 (Student Access and Success) and Value 3 (Diversity and Equity) and aligned with the College’s vision of meeting the learning needs of its changing student population and community.

Therefore, be it Resolved, that the Rio Hondo College Board of Trustees strongly affirm support the Governor’s plan to support undocumented families and vigorously oppose the lawsuit intended to block this plan.

Resolved, that the Superintendent/President shall communicate the District’s position to the appropriate local, state, and federal elected officials.