

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HILDA L. SOLIS

November 12, 2019

25th Anniversary of Blocking Proposition 187

On November 8, 1994, California voters passed Proposition 187 (Prop 187), a divisive, anti-immigrant ballot measure that sought to deny important social services, such as education and health care, to undocumented immigrants. With 60% voter turnout, Prop 187 passed with 59% voter approval. The very next day, several lawsuits were filed by the Mexican-American Legal Defense/Education Fund (MALDEF), League of Latin American Citizens (LULAC), American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), and others.

Three days after voters approved Prop 187, a temporary restraining order was issued – precluding Prop 187 from taking effect. A federal judge blocked the implementation of virtually all sections of Prop 187, citing "a balance of hardship that decidedly tips in favor of" continuing to provide services to undocumented immigrants. The judge said that the initiative may not be constitutional because it does not provide due process, or a hearing before an individual is denied benefits such as schooling or health care.

MOTION

SOLIS _____

RIDLEY-THOMAS _____

KUEHL _____

BARGER _____

HAHN _____

Prop 187, which was inaptly dubbed the “Save Our State” initiative, consisted of a number of provisions that blatantly targeted individuals, including children, “suspected” of being undocumented immigrants. Supporters of Prop 187 attempted to turn public servants – teachers, doctors, police officers – into immigration enforcement agents. Had Prop 187 not been enjoined and later found unconstitutional, the ill-conceived measure would have barred undocumented immigrants from the state's public education system, from kindergarten up to university, and required school officials to verify the immigration status of both students and their parents. Providers of public, non-emergency health care services would have had to verify the legal status of persons seeking these services. Local law enforcement officers would also have been charged with determining the legal status of any individual they arrested. All of these aforementioned service providers would have been obligated to report suspected undocumented immigrants to California's Attorney General and to the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), a now defunct federal agency that has been replaced by three new immigration enforcement agencies: U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP).

The court enjoined Prop 187 25 years ago and the measure was later declared unconstitutional, but deep, hateful, anti-immigrant sentiment has resurfaced publicly. Xenophobic rhetoric of the sort that led to the passage of Prop 187 is now heard at a national level.

Los Angeles County's mission is to measurably improve the quality of life for its people and communities, which includes 3.5 million residents who are immigrants. The

County's values include integrity, inclusivity, compassion, and customer orientation – all of which were absent from the language in Prop 187.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors proclaim November 12, 2019 as the 25th Anniversary of Proposition 187 being blocked and precluding the measure from taking effect.

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HLS: jv