

October 9, 2013

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader, U.S. House of Representatives
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner and Democratic Leader Pelosi:

The undersigned organizations oppose the SAFE ACT (H.R. 2278) – on its own or as a part of any other legislation – and urge you and your membership not to allow it to be brought to the floor for a vote. As leaders of the U.S. House of Representatives, you should reject the unprecedented delegation of federal immigration enforcement authority to fifty different states and thousands of localities and the criminalization of undocumented immigrants' mere presence in the United States. Ultimately, this misguided policy would provoke such distrust between immigrant communities and law enforcement that it would seriously undermine the safety of all our communities across the nation.

The current bipartisan effort to achieve common-sense immigration reform should focus on the basic American principles of preserving family unity, opposing wasteful spending, and protecting fundamental human rights that we guarantee for every individual. H.R. 2278 runs counter to these principles and would lead to the kind of racial profiling seen under Arizona's SB 1070 law, which was largely struck down as unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court. We urge you not to lead our nation to take this considerable step backward from due process and equality.

A majority of Americans are in favor of common-sense immigration reform, and will not accept costly and ineffective measures to target immigrants for prosecution, detention, and deportation. H.R. 2278 mandates that DHS acquire expensive new detention cells at taxpayer expense to keep many more immigrants in detention (for some, possibly indefinitely) without the chance for a judge to determine whether or less costly, and equally effective, alternatives to detention should be used—thus lining the pockets of private prison corporations and drastically curtailing due process.

This is precisely why law enforcement leaders across the country (including the Major City Chiefs Association, which represents the 63 largest police departments in the United States) reject the SAFE Act. It is also why communities across the country believe H.R. 2278 would poison the promise of immigration reform, even if the proposal is included in a broader set of policies that provide many immigrants with a pathway to citizenship. We urge you to heed their call and ours as you lead the House of Representatives in considering comprehensive immigration reform that is humane, fiscally responsible, and in line with American principles of due process and fairness.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please contact Crystal Plati, the Campaign Manager for the Campaign for an Accountable, Moral, and Balanced Immigration Overhaul at cplati@cambio-us.org.

Signed,

National Organizations

AFL-CIO
America's Voice
American Civil Liberties Union
American Friends Service Committee

American Immigration Lawyers Association
Americans for Immigrant Justice
American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee
Arab American Institute
Asian Americans Advancing Justice
Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance
Asian Pacific Islander Institute on Domestic Violence

Black Alliance for Just Immigration
Black Immigration Network
Blacks in Law Enforcement of America
Breakthrough
Bridge Project

Casa de Esperanza: National Latin@ Network for Healthy Families and Communities
Center for Community Change
Church World Service
Conference of Major Superiors of Men

Defending Dissent Foundation
Detention Watch Network

Fair Immigration Reform Movement
Farmworker Justice
Filipino Advocates for Justice
Futures Without Violence

Hispanic Federation
Human Rights First

Immigrant Defense Project
Immigrant Justice Network
Immigrant Legal Resource Center
Immigration Equality Action Fund

Japanese American Citizens League
Justice Strategies

LatinoJustice PRLDEF
Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights
League of United Latin American Citizens

Muslim Advocates

NAACP
National Alliance to End Sexual Violence
National Coalition Against Domestic Violence
National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs
National Council of La Raza
National Day Laborer Organizing Network
National Domestic Workers Alliance
National Employment Law Project
National Guestworker Alliance
National Immigrant Justice Center
National Immigration Law Center
National Immigration Project
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health
National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights

PICO
Political Asylum/Immigration Representation Project

Religious Sisters of Charity
Rights Working Group

SEIU
South Asian Americans Leading Together
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center
Southern Poverty Law Center

Union of Sisters of the Presentation of the B.V.M. - US Province
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee
United Methodist Church, General Board of Church and Society
United We Dream
US Action

We Belong Together: Women for Common-Sense Immigration Reform
Women's Refugee Commission

YWCA USA

Regional, State, and Local Organizations

Adrian Dominican Sisters Office of Global Mission Justice and Peace (Adrian, MI)
Alliance San Diego
Association of Mexicans in North Carolina
Atlantans Building Leadership for Empowerment

Border Network for Human Rights (El Paso, TX)
Brooklyn Defender Services

Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles
Coalition of de Latino Leaders (Dalton, GA)
Crossing Borders-Dubuque (Dubuque, IA)

Desis Rising Up & Moving
Dignity Health (Pasadena, CA)
Dominican Sisters Ministry of Presence (Garden City, KS)

Families for Freedom (New York, NY)
Farmworker Association of Florida
Florida Immigrant Coalition

Georgia Detention Watch
Georgia Latino Alliance for Human Rights

New York Immigration Coalition
North Carolina Justice Center
Northern Manhattan Coalition for Immigrant Rights
Northwest Immigrant Rights Project (Seattle, WA)
New Orleans Workers Center for Racial Justice

OneAmerica (Seattle, WA)
Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters (Huntington, IN)

Reform Immigration for Texas Alliance

Sisters of Charity of St. Elizabeth (Florham Park, NJ)

Sisters of Mercy of the Americas (Silver Spring, MD)

Sisters of Mercy West Midwest Community (Omaha, NE)

Sisters of St. Francis, Sylvania, OH

Sisters of the Most Precious Blood of O'Fallon, MO

Southeast Immigrant Rights Network

Southern Border Communities Coalition) (San Diego, CA)

Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition

The Humanist Party in New York

The Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester

Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence