

February 14, 2008

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC

Dear Madam Speaker:

We write to express strong opposition to the Secure America through Verification and Enforcement Act (SAVE Act), H.R. 4088.

The SAVE Act will not fix our broken immigration system or improve our economy. Instead it will cause chaos in our communities, by increasing the deportation of immigrant workers and separating American children and spouses from their loved ones. This bill will also cause chaos in our labor market, as its deeply flawed employment authorization verification system will lead to erroneous firings, discrimination, and exploitation of millions of workers, including U.S. citizens and legal immigrants wronged by the system's database errors and lack of safeguards.

A deportation-only approach to addressing the twelve million undocumented immigrants in this country, like the SAVE Act, simply will not work. That is essentially the strategy our government has been pursuing for the last twenty years. Divorced from reality, this tactic has failed to stem the tide of undocumented immigration but has had serious consequences for immigrant and native-born workers, as well as the family members of immigrants caught up in our broken system.

We urge House leaders to stand firm against passing new deportation legislation that is not a solution, and would undermine workers' rights as well as our tradition as a nation of immigrants. We support your efforts to achieve real, bipartisan, comprehensive immigration reform as soon as possible, when there is a true commitment from both parties to resolving the status of the undocumented.

Respectfully,

American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee
American Immigration Lawyers Association
American Jewish Committee
Anti-Defamation League
Asian American Justice Center
Christians for Comprehensive Immigration Reform
Church World Service, Immigration and Refugee Program
Coalition for Comprehensive Immigration Reform (CCIR)
Farmworker Justice
Friends Committee on National Legislation
Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS)
Hispanic Coalition for Comprehensive Immigration Reform
Interfaith Worker Justice

Irish Apostolate USA
Jewish Council for Public Affairs
Leadership Conference on Civil Rights
League of United Latin American Citizens
Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS)
Mennonite Central Committee U.S. Washington Office
Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF)
NDN
NETWORK, a National Catholic Social Justice Lobby
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
The National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund
National Council of La Raza (NCLR)
National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference
National Immigrant Justice Center
National Immigration Forum
National Immigration Law Center
National Korean American Service & Education Consortium (NAKASEC)
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
Sikh Council on Religion and Education
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas
Standing For Truth Foundation
UNITE HERE
Union for Reform Judaism
Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations
The United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries
United Methodist Church, General Board of Church and Society
United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (USHCC)