

July 6, 2016

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
522 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

**RE: Vote NO on the *Stop Dangerous Sanctuary Cities Act (S.3100)* and the *Stop Illegal Reentry Act (S.2193)***

Dear Senators:

On behalf of the 170 undersigned immigrant, civil rights, faith-based, and labor organizations and the millions of immigrant families we serve, **we urge you to oppose the *Stop Dangerous Sanctuary Cities Act (S.3100)*, the *Stop Illegal Reentry Act (S.2193)***, and any similar legislation that jeopardizes public safety, erodes the goodwill forged between local police and its residents, and perpetuates the criminalization of immigrant communities.

As Congress continues to delay comprehensive immigration reform and a permanent solution for the nation's 11 million undocumented immigrants, we are left with the status quo—an enforcement only approach that tears apart families and keeps people in the shadows. Despite the gridlock in Congress, localities across the country still have the responsibility to uphold safety and peace in their communities. To fulfill this goal, local police and residents have fostered mutual trust to root out crime and promote public safety, encouraging community members to cooperate with local authorities. In support of these goals, more than 350 diverse localities have enacted policies that promote community policing.

These bills do nothing to promote public safety. They are simply more enforcement only bills that do not offer any real, effective solutions. The *Stop Dangerous Sanctuary Cities Act* targets localities that adopted community trust policies by taking away millions of dollars in federal funding for programs, including the Community Development Block Grant and Economic Development Administration Grants, that could be used to build up communities, improve infrastructure, and strengthen local government. The *Stop Illegal Reentry Act* adds a mandatory minimum sentencing provision for immigrants that would tie the hands of judges and put thousands of non-violent offenders behind bars at a cost of at least \$3.1 billion to the taxpayer, and would require the 9 additional federal prisons to be built, at extra cost.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Calculations by the ACLU and the Center for American Progress, based on U.S. Sentencing Commission and Bureau of Prisons data, and assuming steady annual illegal reentry convictions at FY2015 levels. In FY15, just over 5,900 individuals with illegal reentry convictions had a prior "aggravated felony" conviction, i.e. all those individuals who received 8-level, 12-level, and 16-level enhancements under the sentencing guidelines. See U.S. Sentencing Commission, "Quick Facts, Illegal Reentry Offenses," Fiscal Year 2015, available at [http://www.ussc.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/research-and-publications/quick-facts/Quick\\_Facts\\_Illegal\\_Reentry\\_FY15.pdf](http://www.ussc.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/research-and-publications/quick-facts/Quick_Facts_Illegal_Reentry_FY15.pdf) (last accessed July 2016). The impact of the proposed 5-year

Faith leaders, advocates against domestic violence, the United States Conference of Mayors, and the National Association of Counties have all come out in opposition to these extreme proposals, which target essential federal funding, curtail effective policing, and increase mandatory minimums for immigrants. Indeed, these bills contains similar provisions to the *Stop Sanctuary Policies and Protect Americans Act* (S.2146), which the Senate wisely voted not to proceed on last year.

Now more than ever, Congress must find a way to enact comprehensive immigration reform. Until then, Congress cannot presume the discredited, mass deportation strategy encompassed by these bills is an acceptable substitute. The real solution to our dysfunctional system is comprehensive immigration reform, which would make our nation safer, foster participation by immigrant communities, and establish an enforcement system that emphasizes family reunification, discretion, and fairness.

In light of the above, we strongly urge the Senate to reject the *Stop Dangerous Sanctuary Cities Act* (S.3100) and the *Stop Illegal Reentry Act* (S.2193).

Sincerely,

**National Organizations**

32BJ SEIU

Advancing Justice - Asian Law Caucus

AFL-CIO

Alianza Americas

Alliance for Citizenship

America's Voice

American Civil Liberties Union

American Federation of Teachers (AFT)

American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)

American Immigration Lawyers Association

Asian Americans Advancing Justice - AAJC

Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF)

Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFL-CIO (APALA)

ASISTA Immigration Assistance

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mandatory minimum for illegal reentry with a prior aggravated felony conviction was calculated by adopting the conservative assumption that the new sentence length for each of the 5,900 individuals above would increase to exactly 5 years. Assuming otherwise steady incarceration levels, and a cost per bed, per day of \$87.61, the increased annual expenditures within five years, and every year thereafter, would be \$448 million. The total increased cost for the first 5 years would be \$834 million, and the total increased cost for the second 5 years would be \$2.2 billion, for a total cost to taxpayers over 10 years of approximately \$3.1 billion. Additionally, within five years, the increased illegal reentry sentence lengths for people with prior aggravated felonies would require an increase of 14,000 prison beds, or about 9 new prisons at 1,500 beds per prison. See BUREAU OF PRISONS, "Federal Prison System, Per Capita Costs, FY 2015", available at [https://www.bop.gov/foia/fy15\\_per\\_capita\\_costs.pdf](https://www.bop.gov/foia/fy15_per_capita_costs.pdf).

Capital Area Immigrants' Rights Coalition  
Center for New Community  
Center for Popular Democracy  
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Refugee & Immigration Ministries  
CLUB SAN RAFAEL  
Detention Watch Network  
Enlace  
Families for Freedom  
Farmworker Justice  
Franciscan Action Network  
Friends Committee on National Legislation  
Georgia Detention Watch  
HIAS  
Immigrant Defense Project  
Immigrant Justice Corps  
Immigrant Legal Resource Center  
Irish Apostolate USA  
Jobs With Justice  
Justice Strategies  
Labor Council for Latin American Advancement (LCLAA)  
Latin America Working Group  
Latino Commission on AIDS  
Law Offices of Jessica Dominguez  
League of United Latin American Citizens  
Mennonite Central Committee U.S. Washington Office  
Mi Familia Vota  
Mijente  
NAPAWF San Diego Chapter  
National Center for Lesbian Rights  
National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA)  
National Council of Jewish Women  
National Council of La Raza (NCLR)  
National Day Laborers Organizing Network (NDLON)  
National Domestic Workers Alliance  
National Immigrant Justice Center  
National Immigration Forum  
National Immigration Law Center  
National Immigration Project of the NLG  
National Korean American Service and Education Consortium  
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health  
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice  
New York Immigration Coalition  
OCA - Asian Pacific American Advocates  
Office of Social Justice, Christian Reformed Church in North America

People For the American Way  
Project South  
Red Mexicana  
Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services (RAICES)  
Salvadoran American National Network (SANN)  
South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT)  
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC)  
The United Methodist Church - General Board of Church and Society  
United We Dream  
UURISE - Unitarian Universalist Refugee & Immigrant Services & Education  
Voto Latino  
We Belong Together

**State Organizations**

American Gateways  
Arkansas United Community Coalition  
Asian Americans Advancing Justice-LA  
Asian Law Alliance  
Asian Pacific Policy & Planning Council  
ASPIRE  
Biesenthal & Gray, LLC  
CARECEN-DC  
Casa Club Yuriria Cgicago  
Casa Latina  
Casa Michoacan  
Casa San Jose  
Central American Resource Center-LA  
Central Ohio Worker Center  
CiRA  
Club Francisco Villa  
Clubes Michoacanos Unidos en Illinois  
Coalition for Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles (CHIRLA)  
Coalition of Latino Leaders-CLILA  
Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition  
Colorado People's Alliance  
Connecticut Students for a Dream  
Connecticut Working Families Party  
Dolores Street Community Services  
Dream Team Los Angeles  
El CENTRO de Igualdad y Derechos  
El Centro Hispano, Inc.  
Employee Rights Center  
Florida Center for Fiscal and Economic Policy  
Florida Coastal Law School Immigrant and Human Rights Clinic

Florida Immigrant Coalition, Inc. (FLIC)  
Friends of Broward Detainees  
Friends of Farmworkers, Inc.  
Georgia Latino Alliance for Human Rights  
Grupo de Apoyo e Integracion Hispanoamericano  
Her Justice  
Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights  
Immigrant Law Group  
Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project  
Immigrant Youth Coalition  
Immigration and Refugee Task Force, Unitarian Society of New Haven  
Immigration Center for Women and Children  
Inland Empire - Immigrant Youth Coalition (IEIYC)  
Interfaith Movement for Immigrant Justice - Oregon  
Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence  
Jean Silk  
Junta for Progressive Action  
Juntos  
Justice for Our Neighbors West Michigan  
Kentucky Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights  
Korean American Resource and Cultural Center  
Korean Resource Center  
Latino Advocacy Foundation of Fairfield County  
Make the Road Pa  
Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition  
Michigan United  
Migrant and Immigrant Community Action Project  
MMG Law LLC  
National Lawyers Guild - Los Angeles  
New Mexico Faith Coalition for Immigrant Justice  
New Orleans Workers' Center for Racial Justice  
New Orleans' Congress of Day Laborers  
New Sanctuary Movement of Philadelphia  
NHW  
Northwest Immigrant Rights Project  
OneAmerica  
Orange County Immigrant Youth United  
Pangea Legal Services  
PASO - West Suburban Action Project  
Pennsylvania Immigration and Citizenship Coalition  
Promise Arizona  
Public Counsel  
Racial Justice Action Center  
Renato Muguerza

San Diego Immigrant Rights Consortium  
Services, Immigrant Rights, and Education Network (SIREN)  
Silicon Valley De-Bug  
Social Justice Collaborative  
Sojourner House  
South Florida Interfaith Worker Justice  
Southeast Immigrant Rights Network  
Stop the Checkpoints  
Street Level Health Project  
SURJ - New Haven  
Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition  
The Farmworker Association of Florida, Inc  
The Law Office of Usman B. Ahmad, PC  
TODEC Legal Center  
UACT  
UFW Foundation  
Unitarian Universalist Church of Greater Bridgeport  
United Action Connecticut  
University of California, Berkeley Black Student Union  
University of San Francisco School of Law Immigration and Deportation Defense Clinic  
Unlocal, Inc  
VietLEAD  
Virginia Coalition for Immigrant Rights  
Voces de la Frontera  
WeCount!  
Worker Justice Center of New York, Inc