

July 11, 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: Opposition to Mandatory Notification Legislation**

Dear Senators:

On behalf of the 216 undersigned immigrant, legal, civil rights, faith-based, and labor organizations and the millions of immigrant families we serve, we urge you to oppose and not co-sponsor any legislation or amendment that would entangle state and local law authorities with immigration enforcement through mandatory notifications.

As some in Congress continue 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 continue to foster 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.

Bills that entangle state and local law enforcement and immigration enforcement, including through notification-only policies, are simply enforcement-only bills that do not offer any real, effective solutions. Bills that target localities that adopted community-trust policies by mandating local jurisdictions turn over individuals to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) through compulsory notifications should be opposed. Communities themselves should be deciding how best to ensure public safety and carry out community policing—not the federal government. Bills that strip this power from communities would harmfully empower the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to impose its enforcement decisions even where state and local officials have determined that those decisions hurt their communities' public safety and scare community members away from reporting crime.

Legislation that would mandate such cooperation would consequently require jurisdictions to turn over individuals with minor convictions, convictions that may be decades old, or individuals without convictions, but who instead fall under ICE's overly-broad "threat to public safety" classification. Jurisdictions would also be forced to turn over individuals convicted of

shoplifting, simple assault, and driving with a suspended license in jurisdictions that make such offenses a felony. Moreover, mandatory notification legislation represents an unfunded mandate, completely ignoring the administrative costs that local jurisdictions will have to bear to comply with these onerous requirements.

DHS's broad interpretation of public safety risks will exacerbate friction with jurisdictions putting community policing first. The result will be new burdens on state and local law enforcement and jail staff who will be forced to make individual determinations themselves—in violation of the Tenth Amendment's anti-commandeering principle—despite the importance of respecting public safety determinations made by the criminal justice system. Bills that mandate cooperation raise serious Tenth Amendment concerns, as the notification process essentially commandeers local law enforcement officials to enforce federal immigration law.

Finally, Senators should not support a bill that continues to allow DHS to operate outside the Fourth Amendment. Bills with warrant requirements would likely be optional and detentions without judicial authorization would continue on a large scale. Congress must not send a message that the Fourth Amendment is optional in immigration enforcement.

Now more than ever, Congress must find a way to enact comprehensive immigration reform. Until then, Congress cannot presume this unworkable-bill 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 Senators to oppose and not co-sponsor mandatory notification bills.

Sincerely,

**National Organizations (77)**

Alianza Americas  
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)  
American Federation of Teachers (AFT)  
American Immigration Lawyers Association  
Americans for Immigrant Justice  
Asian American Legal Defense and Education fund (AALDEF)  
Asian Americans Advancing Justice - AAJC  
Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Asian Law Caucus  
Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFL-CIO (APALA)  
Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence  
ASISTA Immigration Assistance

Border Network for Human Rights  
Capital Area Immigrants' Rights Coalition  
CARECEN DC  
Casa de Esperanza  
Casa Esperanza  
Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Santa Rosa  
Center for Employment Training  
Center for New Community  
Center for Popular Democracy  
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Refugee and Immigration Ministries  
Church World Service  
Detention Watch Network  
Dream Team LA  
East Bay Community Law Center  
Enlace  
Farmworker Justice  
First Focus  
Franciscan Action Network  
Friends Committee on National Legislation  
Grassroots Leadership  
Highlander Research and Education Center  
Immigrant Defense Project  
Immigrant Legal Resource Center  
Jobs With Justice  
Justice Strategies  
Labor Council for Latin American Advancement  
Latin America Working Group  
Latino Commission on AIDS  
Leadership Conference of Women Religious  
League of United Latin American Citizens  
MALDEF  
Mennonite Central Committee U.S. Washington Office  
Mi Familia Vota  
Michigan United  
National Alliance to End Sexual Violence  
National Center for Lesbian Rights  
National Coalition Against Domestic Violence  
National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA)  
National Council of Jewish Women  
National Council of La Raza (NCLR)  
National Day Laborer Organizing Network  
National Education Association

National Immigrant Justice Center  
National Immigration Law Center  
National Immigration Project of the NLG  
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health  
National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights  
National Network to End Domestic Violence  
National Organization of Sisters of Color Ending Sexual Assault  
National Resource Center on Domestic Violence  
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice  
OCA - Asian Pacific American Advocates  
Office of Social Justice, Christian Reformed Church in North America  
PICO National Network  
Project South  
Redwood Justice Fund  
Salvadoran American National Network (SANN)  
SEIU 32BJ  
South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT)  
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC)  
Southeast Immigrant Rights Network  
Southern Poverty Law Center  
United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries  
United We Dream  
Voto Latino  
We Belong Together

**State Organizations (139)**

**Arizona (2)**

Coalicion de Derechos Humanos  
Promise Arizona

**Arkansas (1)**

Arkansas United Community Coalition

**California (50)**

Apoyo Legal Migrante Asociado (ALMA)  
Asian Americans Advancing Justice - LA  
Asian Law Alliance  
Asian Pacific Policy & Planning Council  
ASPIRE  
California Immigrant Policy Center  
California Immigrant Youth Justice Alliance

Canal Alliance  
Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Santa Rosa  
Catholic Charities of the East Bay  
Central American Resource Center - Los Angeles (CARECEN-LA)  
Centro Laboral de Graton  
Centro Legal de la Raza  
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles (CHIRLA)  
Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto  
Dolores Street Community Services  
Dream Team LA  
East Bay Sanctuary Covenant  
Educators for Fair Consideration, a project of Community Initiatives  
Faith in Action Kern County  
Faith in the Valley  
Filipino Advocates for Justice  
Franciscans for Justice  
Good Samaritan Family Resource Center, Inc.  
Greater Long Beach Interfaith Community Organization  
IDEAS at UCLA  
Immigrant Defenders Law Center  
Immigration Center for Women and Children  
Inland Congregations United for Change  
International Institute of the Bay Area  
Korean Community Center of the East Bay  
Law Office of Helen Lawrence  
Law Offices of Jessica Dominguez  
Legal Services for Children  
Long Beach Immigrant Rights Coalition  
Miguel Contreras Foundation  
National Lawyers Guild - Los Angeles  
Pangea Legal Services  
Public Counsel  
Sacramento Area Congregations Together  
Services, Immigrant Rights, and Education Network (SIREN)  
Silicon Valley De-Bug  
Sisters of St. Francis  
Street Level Health Project  
Thai Community Development Center  
TODEC Legal Center  
True North Organizing Network  
University of San Francisco School of Law Immigration and Deportation Defense Clinic  
Immigrant Youth Coalition

Placer People of Faith Together

**Colorado (3)**

Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition

Colorado People's Alliance (COPA)

Sinclair & Ross, LLC

**Connecticut (6)**

Comunidad Inmigrantes East Haven CT

Connecticut Students for a Dream

New Haven Peoples Center

Social Justice Council/ UU Church in Meriden

Unitarian Universalist Church of Greater Bridgeport

United Action Connecticut

**Florida (8)**

Central Florida Jobs with Justice

Faith in Florida

Florida Council of Churches

Florida Immigrant Coalition, Inc. (FLIC)

Friends of Broward Detainees

South Florida Interfaith Worker Justice

The Farmworker Association of Florida, Inc

WeCount!

**Georgia (3)**

Georgia Latino Alliance for Human Rights

Georgia Not1More Coalition

Women Watch Afrika, Inc.

**Illinois (4)**

Casa Club Yuriria Chicago

Chicago Jobs with Justice

Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights

PASO - West Suburban Action Project

**Indiana (2)**

Indianapolis Congregation Action Network

St Joseph Valley Project Jobs with Justice

**Iowa (1)**

Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement

**Kentucky (2)**

Kentucky Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights  
Progressive Immigration Compact for Kentucky

**Maine (1)**

Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project

**Maryland (1)**

CASA

**Massachusetts (3)**

Boston University Immigrants' Rights Clinic  
Irish International Immigrant Center  
Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition

**Michigan (1)**

National Lawyers Guild, Detroit/Michigan Chapter

**Minnesota (2)**

Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota  
ISAIAH

**Missouri (1)**

Biesenthal & Gray, LLC

**Nebraska (1)**

Nebraska Appleseed Center for Law in the Public Interest

**New Jersey (2)**

Casa Esperanza  
Reformed Church of Highland Park

**New Mexico (6)**

El CENTRO de Igualdad y Derechos  
Encuentro  
Equality New Mexico  
Native American Voters Alliance  
New Mexico Voices for Children

**New York (22)**

Chhaya CDC

Emerald Isle Immigration Center  
grc  
Her Justice  
Jewish Voice for Peace - Westchester  
Judson Memorial Church  
Kids for College  
Law Office of Usman B. Ahmad, PC  
Make the Road New York  
MinKwon Center for Community Action  
Mixteca Organization, Inc.  
New York Immigration Coalition  
New York Lawyers for the Public Interest  
New York Legal Assistance Group  
NYC New Sanctuary Coalition  
Rochester Committee on Latin America  
Rockland Immigration Coalition  
Safe Passage Project  
Sisters of Charity of New York  
Wayne Action for Racial Equality  
Worker Justice Center of New York, Inc  
Workers' Center of Central New York

**Ohio (1)**

Cleveland Jobs with Justice

**Oregon (2)**

Lane County Legal Aid and Advocacy Center  
Voz Hispana Oregon

**Pennsylvania (2)**

Grupo de Apoyo e Integración Hispanoamericano  
Immigration Taskforce, Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

**Tennessee (1)**

Jobs with Justice of East Tennessee

**Texas (7)**

American Gateways  
Artemis Justice Center  
Equal Justice Center  
South Texas Human Rights Center,  
Wilco Justice Alliance (Williamson County)



Workers Defense Project

**Vermont (1)**

Migrant Justice

**Washington (5)**

Latino Advocacy

Northwest Immigrant Rights Project

OneAmerica

Puentes: Advocacy, Counseling & Education

Tacoma Community House

**Wisconsin (1)**

Voces de la Frontera