

October 19, 2015

Hon. Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Hon. Harry Reid  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
522 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

**Re: Vote NO on Stop Sanctuary Policies and Protect Americans Act (S. 2146)**

Dear Senators McConnell and Reid,

On behalf of the undersigned immigrant, civil rights and labor organizations and the millions of immigrant families we serve, **we urge you to join us and oppose Senator Vitter's Stop Sanctuary Policies and Protect Americans Act (S. 2146)**, and any similar legislation that may come to the Senate floor that jeopardizes public safety and the good will forged in communities across the country between local police and its residents.

As Congress continues to drag its feet on comprehensive immigration reform and a solution for 11 million undocumented immigrants in this country, we are left with the status quo--an enforcement-only approach that only tears apart families and keeps people in the shadows. Despite the gridlock in Congress, localities across America still have the responsibility to uphold safety and peace in their communities. In order to achieve that, local police and residents have fostered mutual trust to root out crime. More than 350 diverse localities have already adopted policies that limit their involvement in immigration enforcement to restore community trust in the police.

The Vitter bill achieves nothing. It is simply another enforcement-only bill that does not offer any solutions and instead targets localities that have adopted community trust policies by taking away millions of dollars in federal funding for programs including the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) grants that could be used to make communities stronger. This bill adds a mandatory minimum sentencing provision of five years that would tie the hands of judges, put thousands of non-violent offenders behind bars at a high premium to taxpayers. Faith leaders and advocates against domestic violence have all come out in opposition to this extreme proposal that targets essential federal funding and curtails effective policing.

Now more than ever, Congress must find a way to pass comprehensive immigration reform. Yet until then, they cannot presume this mass deportation approach being offered by Senator Vitter is an acceptable substitute. The real solution to our broken system is immigration reform which would make

our nation safer, bring people who are already part of our communities more completely into our society, and allow the government to prioritize enforcement against those who pose a real danger to our national security and public safety.

We urge the Senate to reject S. 2146.

Sincerely,

Alliance for a Just Society

Alliance for Citizenship

Alliance for Latina Leadership

Alliance San Diego

America's Voice Education Fund

American Federation of Teachers (AFT)

American Immigration Lawyers Association

Anti-Defamation League

Arkansas United Community Coalition

Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF)

Asian Americans Advancing Justice-AAJC

Bend The Arc

Church World Service

Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles (CHIRLA)

Coalition on Human Needs

Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition

CREDO

Dream Action Coalition

El CENTRO de Igualdad y Derechos

Equality New Mexico

Farmworker Justice

First Focus Campaign for Children

Florida Immigrant Coalition, Inc. (FLIC)

Gamaliel  
Gulf Coast Center for Law & Policy  
Idaho Community Action Network  
Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights  
Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota  
Immigrant Legal Resource Center  
Jesuit Conference  
Jobs With Justice  
Korean American Resource and Cultural Center  
Korean Resource Center  
Latin America Working Group  
League of United Latin American Citizens  
Long Beach Immigrant Rights Coalition  
Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service  
Make the Road New York  
Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition  
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum  
National Coalition Against Domestic Violence  
National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA)  
National Council of La Raza (NCLR)  
National Domestic Workers Alliance  
National Education Association  
National Immigrant Justice Center  
National Korean American Service and Education Consortium  
National Latin@ Network: Casa de Esperanza  
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health  
National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund

Nebraska Appleseed Center for Law in the Public Interest  
NETWORK, A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby  
Northwest Immigrant Rights Project  
NQAPIA: National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance  
OCA - Asian Pacific American Advocates  
OneAmerica  
People for the American Way  
Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada  
Rights for All People  
San Diego Immigrant Rights Consortium  
SC Progressive Network  
South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT)  
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC)  
Survivors of Torture, International  
Tahirih Justice Center  
Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition  
The Advocates for Human Rights  
UFW Foundation  
UNITE HERE  
United We Dream  
VACOLAO - Virginia Coalition of Latino Organizations  
Virginia Coalition for Immigrant Rights  
Voto Latino  
Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence  
We Belong Together  
Workers Defense