

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  
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)