

Dear Madam Speaker:

We write to express our solid opposition to the Secure America through Verification and Enforcement Act (SAVE Act), H.R. 4088. On the issue of immigration, America is demanding a return to legality. This bill not only fails to provide that, but in fact is a poison pill in the bloodstream of the American workforce. We join our voices from all over the country to urge your leadership in preventing this misguided measure from moving forward.

At a time when economic uncertainty is spreading through our country, it is simply inconceivable that Congress may be considering a measure that asks every U.S. citizen to prove his or her right to work--and to prove it by relying on a verification system that has been repeatedly demonstrated to fail American workers and employers alike. If enacted, this ill-conceived proposal 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.

While this bill purports to address our broken immigration system, it fails to take the approach demanded by the American public. Congress must articulate a clear and effective approach to resolving the immigration crisis. The public has summarily rejected deportation-only strategies like H.R. 4088 as impractical, unrealistic, and undesirable. This approach simply does not measure up: not in terms of what is feasible, nor in light of the type of country we want to be.

The SAVE Act does not represent the principles of our nation, and we hope it does not represent the principles of the Democratic Party and the Congress. It is a short-sighted attempt to appease a vociferous minority of anti-immigrant and nativist groups, at the expense of American and immigrant workers. We urge that you listen to the voice of the nation instead, which has unfalteringly and resolutely backed solutions that restore legality by addressing the multiple facets of this issue.

The strength of this country lies in our recognition that we can accomplish more together than separately. The SAVE Act weakens us as a nation and we urge you to fight vigorously against it.

Respectfully,

NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)
American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA)
The American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC)
Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN)
Call To Action
Center for Community Change (CCC)
Coalition for Comprehensive Immigration Reform (CCIR)
Fair Immigration Reform Movement (FIRM)
Friends Committee on National Legislation
International Immigrants Foundation
The League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)

Legal Momentum

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service

Medical Mission Sisters' Alliance for Justice

Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF)

National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum

National Association of Puerto Rican Hispanic Social Workers

National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd

National Coalition of Latino Clergy & Christian Leaders / CONLAMIC

National Council of Jewish Women

National Council of La Raza (NCLR)

National Day Laborer Organizing Network (NDLON)

National Immigration Forum

National Immigration Law Center (NILC)

National Korean American Service & Education Consortium (NAKASEC)

National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health

Progressive Democrats of America

Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law

Service Employees International Union (SEIU)

South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT)

United Electrical Workers (UE)

Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations

United Farm Worker Foundation

United Food and Commercial Workers International Union (UFCW)

United Methodist Church, General Board of Church and Society

STATE AND LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

Alabama

United Methodist Hispanic Ministries of North Alabama

Arizona

Border Action Network

Neighborhood Ministries

R & L Management, Inc

Arkansas

Arkansas ACORN

Arkansas Coalition for Comprehensive Immigration Reform

LA CASA HEALTH NETWORK

California

American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California

Asian Law Alliance

Asian Pacific American Legal Center of Southern California

Bay Area Immigrant Rights Coalition (BAIRC)

Black Alliance for Just Immigration

California Immigrant Policy Center
Central American Resource Center (CARECEN-LA)
Centro Legal de la Raza
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles (CHIRLA)
Comite Cesar Chavez
Enlace
Father Michael D. Gutierrez, St. Anne's Catholic Church and Shrine, Santa Monica, CA
International Institute of the Bay Area
Irish Apostolate USA
Irish Immigration Pastoral Center, San Francisco
Korean Resource Center
The Latina and Latino Roundtable of Pomona and San Gabriel Valleys
Latinos for Peace
Progressive Jewish Alliance
Rev. Juan Romero, Chaplain, Viña de Lestonnac Retreat Center - Temecula
St. Anne's Catholic Church and Shrine, Santa Monica, CA
SEIU Local 1877 & 24/7
SEIU United Healthcare Workers (UHW) West
The Wagner Group, Inc.

Colorado

Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition
Compañeros
CONLAMIC-CO
H. S. Power & Light - Latino Faith Based Initiative
Mark Williams Enterprises, Inc
Rocky Mountain Peace and Justice Center

Connecticut

Hispanic Advisory Council of Greater Stamford
Orion Music Inc.
Philip Berns, Board of Representatives, City of Stamford
Southwestern Connecticut Action Group

Delaware

Voices Without Borders, Inc

District of Columbia

We Are Family

Florida

Central Florida Jobs with Justice
Centro de Orientacion del Inmigrante (CODI)
El Paracaidista, Newspaper
Farmworker Association of Florida
Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center

Hispanic Mentor
LULAC FLorida District#3
St. Elizabeth of Hungary Catholic Church
SEIU Healthcare Florida

Georgia

Coalición de Líderes Latinos
Georgia Rural Urban Summit

Idaho

Idaho Community Action Network (ICAN)

Illinois

Asian American Institute
Chicago Interfaith Committee on Worker Issues
Chicago Medical-Legal Partnership for Child2ren
Chicago Workers' Collaborative
Hispanic Health Advisory Committee of Carbondale and Cobden
Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR)
Interfaith Worker Justice
Korean American Resource & Cultural Center
Project IRENE

Indiana

Mary's Song

Iowa

Catholic Charities of Des Moines
Southwest Iowa Latino Resource Center
Sisters of the Presentation
UN DIA (UNited Dubuque Immigrant Alliance)

Kansas

Dominican Sisters Ministry of Presence
El Centro, Inc
Grandview Park Presbyterian Church
Jewish Community Relations Bureau/American Jewish Committee
Kansas Chapter of The National Action Network
People of Faith for Hospitality and Justice

Kentucky

Kentucky Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (KCIRR)
Kentucky Interfaith Taskforce on Latin America and the Caribbean

Maine

Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project
Maine LCLAA Chapter, Maine Labor Council for Latin American Advancement

Maine People's Alliance
Mano en Mano Hand in Hand
Pax Christi Maine

Maryland

Hon. Ana Sol Gutierrez, Maryland State Delegate, District 18, Montgomery County
Izaca Productions
St. Matthew Immigration/Detention Committee
South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT)
United Workers Association

Massachusetts

Agencia ALPHA
Alliance to Develop Power
Berkshire Immigrant Center
Community Economic Development Center of SE MA
Full Revival Ministries
Immigrant Information Center
Labor Council for Latin American Advancement, Massachusetts Chapter
Maged & Rost, PC
Martha's Vineyard Adult Learning Program
Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition (MIRA)
ONE Lowell
The Social Action Committee of North Parish Church of North Andover
Western MA Coalition for Immigrant and Workers' Rights

Michigan

Fr. Frederick L. Thelen, Pastor, Cristo Rey Church
The Leadership Council Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary
Sisters of Mercy Detroit Leadership Team

Minnesota

The Advocates for Human Rights
CASA GUADALUPE
Frey Law Office
Office for Social Justice - St. Paul/Minneapolis
Organization of Liberians in Minnesota, OLM
Saint Ambrose of Woodbury Social Justice Committee
Sister Sheila Rausch, Sisters of the Order of Saint Benedict, St. Joseph
UNITE HERE Local 17
UNITE HERE Local 150

Mississippi

El Pueblo of the United Methodist Church Seashore District MS Conference
MPOWER

Missouri

Missouri Immigrant & Refugee Advocates
Westside Community Action Network Center

Nebraska

Nebraska Appleseed Center for Law in the Public Interest

Nevada

Ahora Newspaper
Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada

New Jersey

Casa de Esperanza
Central Jersey Impeach Group
First Friends, The Elizabeth Detention Center Visitor Project
Hispanic Development Corporation
Interfaith Refugee Action Team (IRATE), Elizabeth
New Jersey ACORN
New Jersey Immigration Policy Network
New Labor
St. Anthony's Social Justice Group
The Workmen's Circle/Arbeter Ring

New Mexico

El CENTRO de Igualdad y Derechos

New York

Alien's Evaluation Services
Arab American Association of New York
Bellevue/NYU Program for Survivors of Torture
Blauvelt Dominican Sisters Ministry of Social Justice
Community Journal Legal and Education Fund
Empire Justice Center
Frances N. Ruiz Law Office
Greater New York Labor-Religion Coalition
New Immigrant Community Empowerment (N.I.C.E.)
New York Immigration Coalition (NYIC)
New York State Leadership Council
The New York State Youth Leadership Council
People's Center for Economic Independence (PCEI)
Professor Robert Smith, Baruch College School of Public Affairs, City University of New York
Professor Salvador Rivera, Professor of History and Sociology, State University New York
Rockland Immigration Coalition
SEIU Local 32BJ
YKASEC – Empowering the Korean American Community

North Carolina

America United Mano al Hermano
CONLAMIC-NC
International Friendship Center
La Noticia, The Spanish-Language Newspaper
Mi Gente Newspaper
North Carolina Council of Churches
Progressive Democrats of North Carolina

Ohio

Greater Cleveland Immigrant Support Network
Hispanas Organizadas de Lake y Ashtabula (HOLA)
Sister Alicia Alvarado, OP, Sisters of St. Dominic of Akron, Leadership Council
Women Speak Out For Peace and Justice

Oklahoma

CONLAMIC-OK
LULAC OKC Council 19002

Oregon

Anglican-Rite Free Diocese of Oregon City
Bend-Condega Friendship Project
CAUSA of Oregon
Coastal Progressives
Latino Network
The Rt. Rev. Sarah A. Morrigan, General Superintendent, Church of the Divine Heart

Pennsylvania

Centro de Apoyo Comunitario
Pennsylvania Immigration and Citizenship Coalition
Nationalities Service Center
Office of Social Services, Latino Catholic Community of the Diocese of Pittsburgh
Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill
Sisters of St. Joseph - Baden
Students And Youth Against Racism, Penn State

Tennessee

Conexión Américas
Germantown Speech & Hearing Clinic
Law offices of Sean Lewis, PLLC
Tennessee Immigrant & Refugee Rights Coalition

Texas

Bishop Emeritus Diocese of Dallas, Texas
Coalition of Higher Education for Immigrant Students
Daughters of Charity

Jovenes Inmigrantes por un Futuro Mejor, University of Texas
Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center
Make the DREAM Come True organization in Dallas Texas
Most Reverend Charles V. Grahmann
Our Lady of Guadalupe
Refugio del Rio Grande, Inc
Tindall & Foster, P.C.

Virginia

Legal Aid Justice Center -- Immigrant Advocacy Program
Reston Interfaith, Inc

Washington

Gibbs Houston Pauw
Global Law Partners LLP
Hate Free Zone
Karl Hack, Attorney at Law
LAW OFFICE OF KAREN L. GILBERT
Ms. Jan Tegtmeier, Instructor, Walla Walla Community College
Patricia A. Simon, Attorney at Law
Ryan, Swanson & Cleveland, PLLC
Seifert Law Offices
Washington Community Action Network
Washington State Commission on Hispanic Affairs

Wisconsin

Voces de la Frontera
Voces de Racine
Workers' Rights Center