



July 18... Alert on Immigration

What's Happening?

On July 6, the US Senate blocked two bills that would have further criminalized immigrants. S. 3100, sponsored by Sen. Pat Toomey, would have denied federal grants to communities that limit cooperation between local police and ICE, essentially turning local police into immigration agents and undermining the trust that immigrants and their families need to safely report crimes to police. The other bill (S. 2193), sponsored by Sen. Ted Cruz, would further criminalize immigrants who re-enter the US – even though as many as half of these immigrants have US-born children here, and even though such penalties do not deter reentries, waste taxpayer resources, and feed the for-profit prison industry. Neither bill received the 60 votes needed to proceed to the Senate floor, and neither bill is likely to come back in the near future. Sen. Richard Durbin voted against both bills. Sen. Mark Kirk voted against S.3100, but for S. 2193. Kirk was the only Republican senator to vote against either bill. (ICIRR)

The 2012 DACA is NOT directly impacted, but experts are saying we can expect litigation on this program to arise. DOJ Request for Rehearing – they have 25 days to file (rarely made and infrequently granted; can also take months to issue a request for rehearing). If there is a rehearing, though, it will likely wait until a 9th Supreme Court judge is appointed. We, as community leaders, need to keep pushing our legislators toward positive immigration legislation. We should be supporting greater community dialogue with key stakeholders and preparing for what's next while gaining community support. One way to do this is to find new allies (business leaders, etc). We need to regroup on a local level and reassert our presence with local lawmakers. Another focus must be national advocacy. Encourage people to vote. Remind them it is their civic responsibility. It's really important that we make immigration reform a ballot box issue. Let your lawmakers know that you are a constituent and make your presence known and let them know the issues you care about. (Adapted from Justice for Immigrants Webinar)

Action One: Prayer

O Holy One, Source of all life and Ground of all love, we thank you for your love that never lets us go. Thank you for the privilege of gathering with our neighbors to worship you. We do not come merely to open the doors of the church, but we come that our hearts might be opened to you and to one another. As we worship you today, help us to respond to the call of love – to love you, our neighbors, ourselves. May we be transformed from individuals to members of your one body. We pray for our nation that we be united as a people tied to a single garment of destiny. We pray for those we elect to serve all citizens, that they may be guided not by ego, politics or money, but by compassion for all people. Guide us as families, as a community of faith, as a nation to follow the path of love. Amen.

(Adapted from Prayer of Invocation; United Church of Christ – Our Faith Our Vote)

Action Two: Calls/Letters

If you're a religious leader from Chicago please consider signing on to an interfaith religious leader letter to increase protections for Chicago immigrant residents:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1rLCexccC3PLLnU7kdpVxkzXCXPwGxmRG7Oh5le1NXgw/viewform?edit_requested=true

President Obama: It's Time for Emergency Moral Action for Immigrant Families: <https://action.groundswell-mvmt.org/petitions/president-obama-it-s-time-for-emergency-moral-action-for-immigrant-families?source=gse1>

URGENT ACTION NEEDED: Stop Congress from Cutting Refugee Resettlement Funds:
<http://www.interfaithimmigration.org/fy17funding/>

Petition to Pardon Undocumented Immigrants: <https://petitions.whitehouse.gov/petition/petition-pardon-undocumented-immigrants>

Call your US Senators & Tell Them to Oppose Anti-Sanctuary City Bill!

Sample Script: " I'm (name) from (city or county) and I'm calling to ask the Senator to oppose S.3100, the "Stop Dangerous Sanctuary Cities Act" and other anti-immigrant proposals. This bill turns local police into immigrant enforcement agents. As a person of faith, I expect the Senator to stand with our communities and against politicians who want to separate immigrant families and spread fear using our tax dollars."

Demand a Stay of Removal for Mother in Sanctuary, Hilda Ramirez:

<https://grassrootsleadership.ourpowerbase.net/civcrm/petition/sign?sid=31&reset=1&%3Bqid=538242>

Organizational Sign-On Letter in Support of ACA-DACA: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1IzCoP9aMvqy-5IJYGNrv5UrhRlDRlhhHmTvzic3_xms/viewform?c=0&w=1

President Obama: No Human Being is Illegal! <http://act.presente.org/sign/potus/?t=3&akid=1468.498104.Wmn25q>

Tell President Obama it's Time for a Moratorium on Deportations:

http://act.credoaction.com/sign/DAPA_Obama?t=2&akid=18660.8488121.MWgmE1

Tell Pres. Obama and DHS that if there's no DAPA then they should put a freeze on deportations:

<https://action.mijente.net/petitions/no-dapa-no-deportations/>

Action Three: Education

New Democratic Immigration Platform Caters to Hispanics: <http://thehill.com/latino/286346-dem-immigration-platform-courts-hispanics>

CWS Strongly Supports the Refugee Protection Act of 2016: <http://cwsglobal.org/cws-strongly-supports-the-refugee-protection-act-of-2016/>

Statue of Liberty was Built to Welcome Immigrants: <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2016/jul/04/the-statue-of-liberty-immigrants-independence-day>

The Hypocrisy of Criminal Treatment in America: <http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/judicial/286309-for-immigrants-with-convictions-punishment-never-ends>

Award-Winning Cartoonist Creates Project to Tell Her Immigration Story:

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/comic-captures-what-its-like-to-spend-a-decade-in-immigration-limbo_us_57717b79e4b0f168323a7382

Action Four: Events/Resources

The **Republican National Convention** begins today, July 18, in Cleveland, OH and will run through July 21 – to learn more about the Convention, visit <http://convention.gop/about>

The **Democratic National Convention** will be July 25 – 28 in Philadelphia, PA – to learn more about the Convention, as well as find a draft of the 2016 Democratic Platform, visit <https://demconvention.com/>

Action Five: Social Media

Sample Tweet: .@SENATOR, Our community welcomes #immigrants. OPPOSE S.3100, the so-called "Stop Dangerous Sanctuary Cities Act"

Thank you for your efforts!