

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,

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