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March 11, 2015

United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), the nation's oldest and largest Latino civil rights organization, I write to express our organization's strong concern regarding Senator Vitter's attempts to undermine the 14th Amendment citizenship clause with extreme and harmful language proposed to current anti-human trafficking legislation.

While the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution clearly states that "all persons born or naturalized in the United States" are citizens, according to some sources, the language proposed by Senator Vitter (if enacted) would politicize that definition - it would deny countless U.S.-born Latino children of immigrant parents their citizenship rights afforded to them by the constitution. It is clear that efforts to undo the citizenship clause are deeply rooted in xenophobia and are a political ploy aimed at galvanizing the support of radical anti-immigrant voters.

What is perhaps most troubling is that these actions come after the failed attempts to speed up the deportations of Latino immigrants by threat of shutting down the Department of Homeland Security. Efforts that would seek to revoke citizenship from U.S. born children of immigrants as well those aiming to undo President Obama's immigration-related administrative actions, send the following message to our community: Latino immigrants are not valued by this Congress.

On behalf of the 135,000 members of LULAC, I urge you to oppose any efforts by Senator Vitter or others seeking to revoke and redefine citizenship. As the Senate moves forward with its legislative business, we hope that you keep our views in mind and stand up to any anti-immigrant and anti-Latino legislation that makes its way to the floor. Please feel free to have your staff reach out to Luis Torres, LULAC Director of Policy, at latorres@lulac.org should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Margaret Moran
LULAC National President