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March 2, 2015

The Honorable Heidi Heitkamp
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Heitkamp:

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 concern and disappointment with your vote to invoke cloture on Senator Collins' S.534, the Immigration Rule of Law Act of 2015 (Vote No. 63).

S.534 aims to undo efforts by President Obama to enact meaningful immigration reform through administrative action and if passed would send a message to our community that Latino immigrants are not valued by this Congress.

S. 534 mirrors the effects of language included in H.R. 240 which would prevent the President of the United States from exercising prosecutorial discretion to focus our nation's limited immigration enforcement resources on high priority targets. In essence, it would insist that our nation's immigration enforcement agencies target the hardworking immigrants who pick our food, clean our homes and offices, care for our children, and countless other essential tasks.

LULAC has diligently worked for years with faith based organizations, businesses, and advocacy groups of every stripe to engage and educate members of Congress on the need for bipartisan, comprehensive immigration reform. While we were encouraged by the bipartisan display of support for S.744 in the Senate in the 113th session of Congress, our organization was disappointed that no comprehensive immigration reform legislation advanced through the House of Representatives. Today, we are disappointed that the Senate has made four attempts to pass Department of Homeland Security (DHS) funding legislation, like H.R. 240, that includes some of the most extreme and unnecessary policy riders aimed at repealing President Obama's administrative actions. Passing this type of legislation does nothing to fix our broken immigration system and jeopardizes funding for DHS, a critical agency charged with our national security.

Similarly, by undoing President Obama's immigration-related administration actions, S.534, would do nothing to advance meaningful immigration reform. Moreover, these attempts go against the will of the American people. According to recent polling, over 89 percent of Latino voters approve of the President's actions, and over 60 percent of the general American public support President Obama's immigration policy reforms.

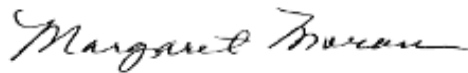
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It is irresponsible to prevent the President from doing what he can to fix our broken immigration system - especially given the failure of Congress to pass its own comprehensive immigration reform bill. The Latino community sees these attempts, as well as the anti-immigrant rhetoric used by some senators, as a political attack against Latino immigrants designed to appeal to a small but vocal group of radicalized anti-immigrant voters.

Close to two million immigrants were deported during President Obama's time in office, separating countless families and slowing our economy. Because of Congress' inaction, President Obama has acted within his authority to provide limited and temporary relief to immigrants who meet very specific requirements. If the members of Congress prefer Congressional over Presidential action (as LULAC does) then the Senate should pass a comprehensive immigration reform bill instead of attempting to block President Obama's efforts to fix our broken immigration system.

I urge you to oppose S. 534 and any other legislation aimed at blocking President Obama's efforts to fix our immigration system. With over 135,000 members of LULAC representing 37 states, this is an issue of great importance to us, and we will be monitoring further action as the bill moves through the Senate. 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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Margaret Moran".

Margaret Moran
LULAC National President