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April 21, 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 urge you to oppose any anti-immigrant amendments proposed to the S. 178, the "Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015." More specifically, LULAC urges you to vote **no** on Vitter #284, Inhofe #275, Inhofe #276, Sessions #298, and Tillis #319 should they be presented for a vote on the floor.

These amendments do not present a solution on immigration and would poison the debate on a human trafficking bill that would otherwise be a Senate accomplishment. The amendments would, among other things, require unnecessary and excessive spending on indefinite detention of immigrants and strip critical protections for refugee children from Latin America making it easier to deport innocent, migrant, refugee children fleeing violence, poverty, and drugs.

LULAC is particularly concerned and disappointed with Senator Vitter's repeated attempts to undermine and politicize the 14th Amendment citizenship clause. While the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution clearly states that "all persons born or naturalized in the United States" are citizens, the language proposed by Senator Vitter 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.

If passed, these amendments would send a message to our community that Latino immigrants are not valued by this Congress. S. 178 should not be used to target the hardworking, low-income immigrants who work each and every day picking our food, cleaning our homes and offices, caring for our children, and countless other essential tasks.

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