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March 26, 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-immigration amendments included in S. Con. Res. 11. More specifically, LULAC urges a no vote on McCain #359, McCain #360, Flake #678, Vitter #849, Grassley #469, Grassley #960, Isakson #611, Isakson #612, Cassidy #806, Cassidy #807, Vitter #507, Vitter #849, Vitter #850, and Sessions #955.

These amendments, among other things, do not present a solution on immigration and require unnecessary and excessive spending on border security, interfere with the Executive Branch's clear legal authority to implement reforms to the immigration system, and attack low-income immigrants by changing the benefit system to hurt lawfully present immigrants and even U.S. Citizens.

We are particularly concerned and disappointed with amendments that attempt to undermine and politicize the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment citizenship clause and/or enable the deportation of innocent, migrant, refugee children at detention centers across the country.

If passed, these amendments would send a message to our community that Latino immigrants are not valued by this Congress. S. Con. Res. 11 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. These amendments would directly inhibit the ability of immigrants to become contributing and productive residents of this country.

Close to two million immigrants were deported during President Obama's time in office, separating countless families and adversely affecting our economy. Individuals who receive deferred status through the Deferred Action for Parental Accountability and the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals initiatives are also ineligible for assistance from 31 federal programs, as reported by the Department of Health and Human Services.

A Center for American Progress study found that when undocumented immigrants move from the under the table economy into the formal economy, there would be an 8.5 percent increase in legal, taxable earnings and in turn, positively stimulate the economy. In addition, according to The Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, undocumented immigrants already pay billions of dollars per year into the Social Security system through sales, income, and other taxes, and would be expected to pay tens of billions more if Congress passed comprehensive immigration reform.

Concerns over the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) are also unfounded. Media sources report that just 12 percent of EITC recipients fulfill the criteria required to qualify for the maximum credit, making it highly unlikely for undocumented immigrants to singlehandedly reverse that fact.

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. 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.

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.

With over 135,000 members of LULAC representing 37 states, this is an issue of great importance to us, and we will be monitoring any further action as S. Con. Res. 11 moves through the Senate.

Please feel free to have your staff reach out to Luis Torres, LULAC Director of Policy, at [latorres@lulac.org](mailto:latorres@lulac.org) should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

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

Margaret Moran  
LULAC National President