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August 12, 2014

United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), the nation's oldest and largest Latino civil rights organization, I am writing to express my sincere gratitude for voting against HR. 5230. This piece of legislation offers tepid resources to address the humanitarian crisis at the border and would make it easier to deport innocent, migrant refugee children from Central America.

As you know, at least 90,000 unaccompanied minors are expected to cross the U.S.-Mexico border this year. In spite of this overwhelming number, H.R. 5230 appropriates meager funds for the Department of Health and Human Services to provide them with the social care, emergency shelter, and food necessary for their survival. In addition, the provisions in H.R. 5230 do not even allow for just treatment for these children. By altering the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008, H.R. 5230 removes important safeguards for helping children flee from trafficking, persecution, and violence in their home countries. The language in H.R. 5230 would therefore allow for the mass deportation of the innocent, migrant children currently incarcerated at detention centers across the country by providing fast-track screening procedures that do not allow for a proper court hearing.

As a civil rights organization, LULAC champions policies that help improve conditions for Latinos. By providing little monetary aid to take care of these children and drafting legal measures to deport them, H.R. 5230 worsens these conditions. We do not agree with the stipulations this bill provides for the humanitarian effort at our border, nor do we agree with language that makes the deportation and removal of these children easier, as they are sent home to deplorable conditions.

As the House moves forward with its post-recess work, I ask you to stand firm and continue to reject any further attempts to enable the mass deportation of our innocent Latino children. For more information, please feel free to have your staff contact Luis Torres, LULAC Director of Policy and Legislation, at Latorres@LULAC.org.

Sincerely,

LULAC National President