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December 3, 2014

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

The League of United Latin American Citizens, the nation's largest and oldest Latino civil rights organization, urges you to oppose H.R. 5759, a symbolic bill whose main message appears to be that Latino immigrants are not valued by this Congress. While this bill has no chance to be enacted by both houses of Congress and signed by the President, were it to become law, it 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 be insisting 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 as much as violent felons. Why any member of Congress would support such a measure cannot be explained from a rational policy perspective.

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 not long ago, our organization is deeply troubled by efforts to pass legislation like H.R. 5759 which prevent the President from doing what he can to fix our broken immigration system given the failure of the House of Representatives to pass a bill.

The Latino community sees this bill, and the anti-immigrant rhetoric used by some Representatives who support it, as a political attack against Latino immigrants designed to appeal to a small but vocal group of ethnocentric white voters. It is extreme and unnecessary and does nothing to fix our broken immigration system. Perhaps most disappointing, is that this bill comes after the release of the [2014 National Immigration Score Card](#), produced by LULAC and national Latino, Asian American, and Pacific Islander groups, which highlights Congress' dismal record on immigration reform.

Close to two million immigrants have been 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. 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. If the House of Representatives prefers Congressional over Presidential action as we do, then you should pass a bill such as H.R. 15 which would supersede the President's actions, fix our broken immigration laws and provide needed relief to millions of people who are Americans in spirit if not yet on paper.

On behalf of the 135,000 members of LULAC, I urge you to reject H.R. 5759. 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