



League of United Latin American Citizens

January 28, 2015

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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 express our organization's strong support for the passage of a clean Department of Homeland Security (DHS) appropriation bill for fiscal year (FY) 2016 and strong opposition to H.R. 240, the House's version of the DHS appropriation bill for FY2016.

As you know, recently, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 240 which included several extreme and unnecessary policy riders that seek to undo efforts by President Obama to enact meaningful immigration reform through administrative action. More specifically, our organization is deeply troubled by several amendments included in H.R. 240 drafted by Reps. Aderholt and Blackburn whose main message appears to be that Latino immigrants are not valued by this Congress.

Rep. Aderholt's amendment included in H.R. 240 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 during the first weeks of the 114th Congress, the House of Representatives has managed to include some of the most extreme and unnecessary amendments into the DHS appropriation bill for FY2016. These policy riders do nothing fix our broken immigration system and jeopardize funding for this critical agency charged with our national security.

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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. It is irresponsible to prevent the President from doing what he can to fix our broken immigration system - especially given the failure of the House of Representatives to pass its own comprehensive immigration reform bill. The Latino community sees these attempts, as well as the anti-immigrant rhetoric used by some Representatives in the House, 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 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. If the members of Congress prefer Congressional over Presidential action (as LULAC does) then Congress should pass a comprehensive immigration reform bill instead of attempting to block President Obama's efforts to fix our broken immigration system by using the DHS appropriation bill for FY 2016 as political leverage.

On behalf of the 135,000 members of LULAC, I urge you to oppose H.R. 240 and any other legislation aimed at blocking President Obama's efforts to fix our immigration system. Instead, I urge you to pass a clean DHS appropriations bill for FY2016. 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