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October 13, 2015

U.S. 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 urge you to oppose S. 2146, the so-called *Stop Sanctuary Policies and Protect Americans Act*. This anti-immigrant legislation is aimed at undermining community trust-building policies across the country and would severely jeopardize local law enforcement efforts to keep communities safe.

This bill, among other things, would force local law enforcement jurisdictions to take on federal immigration enforcement duties and threatens to strip away funding from as many as 300 local jurisdictions from programs like the Community Development Block Grant, Cops on the Beat, and State Criminal Alien Assistance Program. We agree with other civil rights partners that *the sweeping language in S. 2146 would penalize the exercise of any local police discretion to limit inquiries into immigration status in any manner, and would strip funding from localities that undertake the balancing of public safety considerations.*

LULAC is particularly concerned and disappointed with attempts by legislators like Senator Vitter, and others, who continue to scapegoat and demonize hard working immigrants by pushing radical bills like S. 2146. Previously, Senator Vitter also sought to strip citizenship from U.S. born children of immigrants, others sought to make it easier to deport refugee children fleeing violence and instability in Central America, and yet others, were seeking to block President Obama's immigration-related administrative actions. LULAC opposes all of these attempts. Furthermore, it is clear to the Latino community that these efforts are deeply rooted in xenophobia and are nothing but a political ploy aimed at galvanizing the support of radical anti-immigrant voters.

Rather than scapegoating Latino immigrants and making them a target of radical anti-immigrant legislation, LULAC urges Senators to work in a bipartisan fashion to pass comprehensive immigration reform. Bills like S. 2146 are not a solution and I urge you to oppose this legislation as the Senate moves to consider this legislation in the future. 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,

Roger C. Rocha, Jr.
LULAC National President