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February 4, 2015

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner:

On behalf of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), the nation's oldest and largest Latino civil rights organization, I am deeply disappointed with the most recent legal challenge filed in response to President Obama's immigration-related administrative actions. This lawsuit is not only wasteful in terms of time and resources but also displays a blatant disregard for the far more important priorities that should be the focus of Congress.

Though the impetus behind the lawsuit is proclaimed to be the President's violation of the Constitution, it is important to note that many scholars believe President Obama acted within his authority. This lawsuit swiftly undercuts efforts by President Obama to enact meaningful immigration reform through administrative actions. My concerns are further fueled by language attached to the DHS appropriation bill pointedly reversing the 2012 Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program and the President's executive action that immediately shielded family of citizens and permanent residents from deportation.

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. We are deeply troubled that the 114th Congress has incorporated amendments into the DHS FY 2016 funding bill that are extreme, unnecessary, and do nothing to fix our broken immigration system. These attempts also 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.

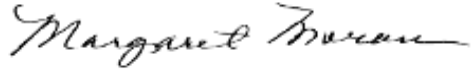
It is irresponsible for the House of Representatives to continue to push language that would prevent the President from doing what he can to fix our broken immigration system - especially given the failure of the House of Representatives to pass its own comprehensive immigration reform bill. The Latino 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. It is Congress' own inaction that spurred President Obama to act within his authority to provide limited and temporary relief to immigrants who meet very specific requirements. Unsurprisingly, the language that was passed in the House has failed in the Senate and the President's veto still looms. If the House of Representatives prefers Congressional over Presidential action (as LULAC does) then Congress should pass a comprehensive immigration reform bill rather than proceed with last-ditch efforts to undermine the President Obama's efforts to repair our fragmented immigration system.

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On behalf of the 135,000 members of LULAC, I urge you to stop using taxpayer dollars for frivolous legal proceedings aimed at blocking President Obama's efforts to fix our immigration system. 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