

Greg Abbott
Office of the Governor
Austin, Texas 78711-2428

May 13, 2017

Dear Governor Abbott,

We the undersigned faith, labor, civil rights and social justice organizations, which represent a wide cross section of America's diverse communities, strongly condemn your decision to sign into law the unconstitutional, racist and anti-immigrant Senate Bill 4. As Governor of Texas, your duty is to protect and defend the rights of ALL Texans -- undocumented immigrants are Texans through and through -- but you have clearly failed in doing this.

Senate Bill 4 will discriminate against people of color, separate families, and negatively impact the civil rights and economy of all Texans. You had the power to stop this, but you didn't, and generations of young Texans will remember this.

SB 4 will institutionalize racial profiling. We know that these anti-immigrant laws that conscript local law enforcement into immigration agents disproportionately impact our Black and Latino working class communities. As a result, under this law, any person that is perceived to be an immigrant -- people of color, anyone with a foreign accent -- stands to be asked for their papers.

SB 4 will separate families and put our children in danger. Studies have shown that children suffer emotionally and physically when they are constantly worried that their parents will be deported. According to a study by Human Impact Partners, thousands of children who had a parent deported in 2012 showed symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder, as well as anxiety, and many were afraid most or all of the time.¹ Instead of focusing on school and doing their homework, children will be constantly worried about what could happen to their parents.

Texas will also feel the negative economic consequences of your decision to sign this hate-filled bill into law. 900,000 immigrant workers help to sustain Texas' economy and just removing the unauthorized workers in Texas today would reduce the state's gross domestic product by more than \$60 billion annually.² The state of Arizona lost \$490 million in tourism revenues in one year due to a nationwide boycott following the enactment of Senate Bill 1070, which was then largely overturned by the United States Supreme Court.³ If SB 4 goes into effect, this will also happen in Texas.

Governor Abbott, your decision to sign this bill into law has created massive resistance against it and we will fight it politically, economically, and legally. We know we will win because we are on the just and moral side.

Sincerely,

The undersigned national organizations:

¹ <http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/healthcare/279544-immigration-deporting-parents-negatively-affects-kids-health>

² <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/immigration/reports/2016/09/21/144363/the-economic-impacts-of-removing-unauthorized-immigrant-workers/>

³ <http://www.deseretnews.com/article/705366423/Arizonans-highlight-economic-cost-of-tough-immigration-law.html>

350.org

Advocates for Youth

African American Ministers In Action (AAMIA)

Alliance for Citizenship

Alliance for Quality Education

America's Voice

American Civil Liberties Union of Texas

Asian Americans Advancing Justice - AAJC

Asian Americans Advancing Justice-LA

Bend the Arc Jewish Action

Center for American Progress

Church World Service

Color Of Change

Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, US Provinces

CREDO

Democracy for America

Demos

Familia: Trans Queer Liberation Movement

Forward Together

Franciscan Action Network

Friends of the Earth

Greenpeace USA

Human Rights Campaign

Immigrant Legal Resource Center

Interfaith Worker Justice

Jobs With Justice

Labor Council for Latin American Advancement

Latino Victory Fund

League of United Latin American Citizens
Los Angeles LGBT Center
Million Hoodies
MomsRising.org
MoveOn.org
Muslim Alliance for Sexual and Gender Diversity
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
National Center for Transgender Equality
National Council of Jewish Women
National Council of La Raza
National Domestic Workers Alliance
National Employment Law Project
National Immigrant Justice Center
National Immigration Law Center
National Justice for Our Neighbors
National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
Our Revolution
Presente.org
ProgressNow
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
Showing Up for Racial Justice Action (SURJ Action)
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC)
T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights
The Center for Popular Democracy
UltraViolet
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee
United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries
United We Dream
Voto Latino