



## **North Carolina Businesses Oppose House Bill 370**

Governor Cooper,

We, the undersigned business leaders of our state, stand firm in our opposition to proposed House Bill 370, also referred to as “Require Sheriff Cooperation with ICE”.

The bill would require local law enforcement to participate in federal law enforcement through forced compliance with ICE detainer requests.

### **We urge you to oppose HB 370.**

This bill will harm North Carolina’s immigrant communities, create a financial burden for local governments, subvert the will of voters, take away power from democratically elected sheriffs, and cost North Carolina important investment opportunities.

Last year, voters in North Carolina’s largest counties—Mecklenburg, Wake, and others—elected sheriffs who campaigned on promises to end their county’s cooperation with ICE in order to protect the rights and safety of all residents. We now stand with these sheriffs of our state’s largest counties who oppose this bill because they know cooperating with federal immigration officers will harm, not help, public safety. This bill would spread fear, erode the trust between local police and immigrant communities, and trigger an increase in unreported crimes.

According to the [New American Economy](#) Report on North Carolina, there are more than 800,000 immigrants living in North Carolina, who contribute \$6.4 billion annually in local, state, and federal taxes. Immigrant workers compose 53.1% of painters, construction workers, and maintenance workers and 49.7% of agricultural workers in the state of North Carolina. Immigrant business owners provide 151,117 jobs to the people of North Carolina and their firms contribute \$24.7 billion in sales to the North Carolina economy.

The state of North Carolina should be celebrating the contributions of the immigrant business community, not endorsing legislation to make them feel unwelcome.

This bill was introduced in the name of increasing safety, but there is no evidence to suggest this will make North Carolinians any safer. According to a [Center for American Progress](#) report, there are 35.5 fewer crimes committed per every 10,000 people in welcoming/sanctuary cities as opposed to non-welcoming cities. Aside from safety, the poverty rate is on average 2.3% lower and the unemployment rate is 1.1% lower in welcoming cities compared to non-welcoming cities. In addition, this bill would erode the trust between local police and immigrant communities and trigger an increase in unreported crimes.

Taking a harsh anti-immigrant stance North Carolina is callous, and it would dissuade future industry from investing in our state.

North Carolina’s economy relies heavily on the work provided by immigrant communities. This bill sends a message to those communities as well as the rest of the United States, that immigrants are unwelcome in the Tarheel State. This bill sends the wrong message, puts financial strain on local municipalities, and does nothing to increase the safety of North Carolinians.

### **We urge you to oppose HB 370**



Eric Henry  
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Alberto Loyola  
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Patrick and Meg McElwee  
Sew Liberated

Erika López

Nsk Cleaning  
Bob Page  
Chairman & CEO  
Replacements, Ltd.

Pegi Pike  
Pegi Pike Jewelry

Kim Hartley  
Anam Cara Theatre Company

Antolin  
BA Painting and Services

Norberto Pizarro  
NP High Quality Building  
Maintenance

Cesar Lara  
Carnicería el Caporal

Mario Castaneda  
Casta Construction

Mirian Porras  
Nuestro Centro

Rose Mary Barrantes-Cohen  
Fan de La Cima

Jay Weatherly and Kim Hunty  
High Five Coffee

Angelita Morrisroe  
La Palmita of Leland

Elisa Ruuz  
La Palmita Mexican Store

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Farm Labor Organizing  
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Nuestro Porvenir LLC

Ismael  
Superior Floor  
Martin Eakes  
CEO  
Center for Community Self-Help

Julio Vega  
Notorious Flooring

Leobardo Ballinas  
LB Mechanical Labors  
Contractor

Connie Matisse  
East Fork

Kelly Prime  
Relax and Rejuvenate of  
Asheville

Tyler J. McCall  
TJMHQ LLC

Greg and Mary Thompson  
TLM Cleaners

Molly M Poore  
Molly M Ceramics LLC

Djuna Roberst  
Symbiosis

Andrew Hill  
Quest Diagnostics

Christina Carter  
Ten Mile NC, Inc.

Laura Evans  
OUTRA

Tiffany Santiago  
Wortham Center for the  
Performing Arts

Taylor Wilson  
TWStyle

Patricia Iniguez  
Cenzontle LLC

Tarleton Walmsley  
Garden Party

Barbara Zaretsky  
BZDesign

Seana Monley



Tierra Sol Studio

Emilie Knap & Arturo Leal  
Chestnut Street Inn

Gillian Roberts  
Ware, LLC

Spring McKenzie  
Maple Tree Dog Camp  
Rebekah Owings  
HQO Advertising LLC

Madison Shields  
Madison Shields Photography

Katie Berman  
Katie Berman Textiles

Sheena Heaslip  
Anchor Heart Films

Melissa Myers  
Red Rover Booking

Molly Caldwell  
Poiesis Counseling

Routh A. Cooper  
LightPress, LLC

Whitney Stahl  
Sage Face Paper

Sara Mulvey  
Revelry Tintype

Laurie Harris  
Laurie Caffrey Clay

Nefertete King  
The Green Lab

Adrea Reusing  
Lantern

Pat Johnson  
Studio Three

Leslie O'Hara  
Time Liberation Services

Dr. David Hayes  
Harvest Moon Women's Health

Jamie Howton  
Local 604, LLC

Becky Lloyd  
Lloyd Pottery

Rafael Bookstaber  
Wildflowers Vintage

Casey Campfield  
The Crow & Quill

Cynthia Pierce  
Cafe Yuzu

Craig Childs  
Alkemi

Tinka Jordy  
Eno Gallery

Connie Regan-Blake  
StoryWindow

Rosetta Buan  
Rosetta's Kitchen

Timothy Gormley  
Burial Beer Co.