

North Carolina Immigrant, Faith and Civil Rights Groups Urge Strong Opposition to Bill HB 370 North Carolina's Show Me Your Papers Law

Monday June 24, 2019- We, Comunidad Colectiva, Southeast Asian Coalition, Siembra NC, Compañeros Inmigrantes de las Montañas en Acción (CIMA), ACLU of North Carolina, Burgos Chala Law, Campaign for Southern Equality, Carolina Jews for Justice, Equality NC, Down Home North Carolina, Durham Association of Educators, Durham for All, Durham People's Alliance, El Colectivo NC, El Pueblo, Guilford County Association of Educators, FaithAction International House, Faith In Public Life, Just Futures Law, Latin American Coalition, Latino Community Coalition of Guilford, NARAL Pro-Choice North Carolina, NextGen North Carolina, North Carolina A. Philip Randolph Education Fund, North Carolina State AFL-CIO, North Carolina Asian Americans Together, North Carolina Council of Churches, NC Child, North Carolina Justice Center, Planned Parenthood of the Southeast, Raleigh Police Accountability Community Taskforce (PACT), SPLC Action Fund, Triangle Interfaith Advocates for Refugees and Immigrants (TIARI), True Ridge, YWCA of High Point, Movement to end Racism and Islamophobia, Muslim women For, El Puente Hispano, Enlace, and YWCA of Asheville state our strong opposition to HB 370— bill that would require our local sheriff officers to interrogate individuals about their immigration status and assist immigration agents in detentions and deportations— **and urge our public officials to stand with us in publicly denouncing this bill.**

Our state has become an epicenter for immigration raids and enforcement. Since the Trump Administration took office, North Carolina has experienced a [460% surge in ICE arrests](#), leading to thousands of detentions and deportations. Just in the past two weeks, communities across North Carolina were terrorized by ICE raids. We must remember that ICE is the federal agency that detains nearly [400,000 individuals](#) a year in substandard conditions, terrorizes communities with large-scale raids, breaks apart families, and racially profiles Black and Brown communities.

Our local officials should not be collaborating with such a morally wrong and rogue agency. This is why HB 370 would be so devastating if it became law. The bill would enlist the sheriffs of every county into Trump's deportation force. It turns any police interaction into an immigration status check and cause of deportation. With sheriff deputies forced to work for ICE, HB 370 would dramatically increase detentions and deportations, causing long-term damage to North Carolina families and communities.

The Senate revisions to HB 370 have only made the bill harsher; it eliminates basic protections for victims and witnesses of crime and creates a removal process for democratically elected Sheriffs who do not assist ICE. Moreover, there is no doubt that this bill is still a Show Me Your Papers Law, mandating sheriff officers operate as ICE agents.

We are steadfastly opposed to any bill that forces our local sheriff's offices to become agents for ICE. We applaud the actions of many sheriffs across the state who have already taken steps to distance their office from ICE; and we condemn HB 370 as a retaliatory bill aimed at rolling back local policies that recognize the dignity of all our community, including immigrants.

We urge Governor Cooper to veto HB 370 and all elected officials to stand against North Carolina's House Bill 370, which would force collaboration between sheriff departments across NC and ICE, and lead to thousands of more deportations.

For more information, please contact Stefania Arteaga at comunidadcolectivact@gmail.com for general inquiries and Julie Mao at julie@justfutureslaw.org for legal inquiries.







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