

October 22, 2013

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives H-232
The Capitol Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader
U.S. House of Representatives H-204
The Capitol Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner and Democratic Leader Pelosi:

The undersigned organizations oppose the Legal Workforce Act (H.R. 1772) and urge you to oppose its passage. If passed, the bill will require every employer in the United States to use E-Verify within two years and will allow employers to re-verify every worker. H.R. 1772 does nothing to change our broken immigration system. Instead, the bill represents an outdated, enforcement-only approach that threatens the livelihood of all workers, including U.S. citizens, while failing to provide real solutions for law-abiding employers.

Mandating E-Verify without providing for legalization will threaten our nation's economy and will send workers and businesses into the underground economy. E-Verify is not a silver bullet to catch unauthorized workers; instead mandating its use will only push employers and workers further into the underground economy, as paying workers cash or misclassifying the workers as independent contractors is the simplest way of not complying with the bill's mandate. Mandating E-Verify, while providing no way for unauthorized workers to become work-authorized, would cost the country more than \$17.3 billion dollars in federal revenue because it would increase the number of employers who resort to the black market outside of the tax system, robbing workers and citizens billions of dollars in payroll, state and federal income taxes.

Moreover, given E-Verify's current error rates, the bill will force hundreds of thousands of U.S. citizens and legally authorized workers to visit Social Security Administration offices to correct an E-Verify error, or lose their job. Yet despite these alarming statistics, H.R. 1772 lacks any meaningful protection for U.S. citizens or authorized workers who lose their jobs due to a government error. H.R. 1772 is a misguided approach that threatens our national economy and American jobs. The real answer is broad reform of our immigration system that includes a tough but fair path to citizenship for the 11 million aspiring Americans living in our communities. We urge you to reject this enforcement-only bill and pursue comprehensive immigration reform that supports, rather than undermines, our country's economic vitality.

Sincerely,

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)
American Friends Service Committee
American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)
America's Voice

Asian Americans Advancing Justice (AAJC)
Asian Americans Advancing Justice (Los Angeles)
Asian Americans Advancing Justice (Asian Law Caucus)
Asian Law Alliance
Assisting Latinos
California American GI Forum
California Immigrant Policy Center
California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation
Casa Latina
CASA of Oregon
Catholic Charities of Shreveport
CCWR
Center for Community Change (CCC)
Central Indiana Jobs with Justice
Centro Avance
Centro Legal de la Raza
CEO Pipe Organs/Golden Ponds Farm
Chicago Workers' Collaborative
Citizen Action of New York
Civil Rights For Immigrants, Action of Greater Lansing
Cleveland Jobs with Justice
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles (CHIRLA)
Colorado Progressive Coalition
DC Jobs with Justice
Defending Dissent Foundation
Dignity Health
Dominican Sisters Ministry of Presence
DRM Action Coalition
El Centro Comunal Latino
Encuentro
Equal Rights Advocates
Farmworker Association of Florida, Inc.
Georgia Rural Urban Summit
GetEQUAL
Global Workers Justice Alliance
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights
Immigration Equality Action Fund
Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights (CLUE-CA)
Jobs with Justice/American Rights at Work
Just Communities of Western Massachusetts
Kentucky Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights
Kentucky Jobs with Justice
KIWA (Koreatown Immigrant Workers Alliance)
La Raza Centro Legal
Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA)

Latino Education & Training Institute
LATINOJUSTICE PRLDEF
Law Offices of Lea McDermid
Legal Aid Society - Employment Law Center
Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service
Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition
Massachusetts Jobs With Justice
Massachusetts Law Reform Institute
Mexi-can.org
MoveOn – Michiana
NAFSA: Association of International Educators
National Council of Jewish Women
National Day Laborer Organizing Network
National Domestic Workers Alliance
National Employment Law Project
National Guestworker Alliance
National Immigration Forum
National Immigration Law Center
National Immigration Project
National Immigration Project of the NLG
North Carolina Justice Center
North Central Indiana AFL-CIO
Northern Indiana Americans for Democratic Action
Northern Indiana Immigration Coalition
Northwest Forest Worker Center
Northwest Immigrant Rights Project
Oakland Tenants Union
Office of the Immigrant Solidarity and Information OISI
OneAmerica
Own The DREAM
Pallottine Missionary Sisters
Pax Christi Austin
Pomona Economic Opportunity Center
Pre-Health Dreamers
Refugio del Rio Grande
Rights Working Group
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
South-Central Indiana Jobs with Justice
Southern Poverty Law Center
St. Joseph Valley Project Jobs with Justice
Step Up Center International
Student Action with Farmworkers
United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 5810
The United Food and Commercial Workers International Union
United Union of Roofers, Waterproofers & Allied Trades Local 36
United We Dream

Violence Intervention Program
Virginia Coalition of Latino Organizations (VACOLAO)
Vision y Compromiso
Washington Defender Association's Immigration Project
Westchester Hispanic Coalition
Western Mass Jobs with Justice
Worker Justice Center of New York, Inc.
Workplace Fairness
Worksafe
9to5

cc: Members of the U.S. House of Representatives