

September 7, 2012

The Honorable Jerry Brown
Governor, State of California
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: The TRUST Act (AB 1081) – Request for Signature

Dear Governor Brown:

The 104 undersigned organizations represent a broad spectrum of faith, labor, immigration advocacy, and civil rights groups working with Latinos, Asian Americans, immigrant communities, and other communities of color. We write in support of the TRUST Act (AB 1081-Ammiano), which will improve public safety by reforming California's participation in the federal government's flawed "Secure Communities" (S-Comm) deportation program. We strongly urge you to sign the TRUST Act into law.

Instead of targeting public safety threats, S-Comm is functioning as a dragnet and deporting from California tens of thousands of productive immigrants who are upstanding members of their communities and pose no public safety threat. Federal oversight bodies, independent research organizations, and many of our groups have exposed S-Comm's mismanagement and damaging impact, including on U.S. citizens and lawful residents. We applaud California's leadership in addressing the harms created by S-Comm, which daily imperils crime victims and witnesses by damaging the vital trust between communities and their law enforcement agencies. S-Comm has hampered successful community policing strategies, for example making domestic violence survivors scared to call 911. Domestic violence survivors, U.S. citizens, and immigrants arrested while driving family members to hospital have all been wrongfully detained under S-Comm and, in some cases, deported.¹

The TRUST Act is a national model that will protect California families from unjust detentions and deportations. The Act prioritizes state and local responses to Immigration and Customs Enforcement ("ICE") detainer requests – for which compliance is voluntary – to address only the most serious felony cases for which S-Comm was originally devised. S-Comm's current dragnet has deported 80,000 Californians – a majority of whom had either no convictions (26%) or a

¹ See, e.g., Aarti Kohli, Peter Markowitz, and Lisa Chavez, *Secure Communities by the Numbers: An Analysis of Demographics and Due Process* (2011), available at http://www.law.berkeley.edu/files/Secure_Communities_by_the_Numbers.pdf; ACLU of Northern California, *Costs and Consequences: The High Price of Policing Immigrant Communities* (2011), available at http://www.aclunc.org/docs/criminal_justice/police_practices/costs_and_consequences.pdf; see also Evan Williams, "Living in Fear," *FLORIDA WEEKLY* (Apr. 18, 2012); Paloma Esquivel, "Immigration enforcement snares citizens in L.A. County, group says," *LOS ANGELES TIMES* (Dec. 15, 2011), available at <http://articles.latimes.com/2011/dec/15/local/la-me-1215-detained-citizens-20111214>; Lee Romney & Paloma Esquivel, "Noncriminals swept up in federal deportation program," *LOS ANGELES TIMES* (Apr. 25, 2011), available at <http://articles.latimes.com/2011/apr/25/local/la-me-secure-communities-20110425>; Stephen Magagnini, "Deported Mexicans leave two small kids in Lodi," *SACRAMENTO BEE* (Nov. 2, 2010).

criminal record of only one or two misdemeanors (another 26%).² Less than one-third of S-Comm deportations from California are of offenders ICE classifies as the most serious. Changes to S-Comm announced by ICE last year are cosmetic, have not been properly implemented, and fail to address S-Comm's defects. A recent report from the University of California, Irvine's Immigrant Rights Clinic confirmed this in concluding that "ICE's failure to adhere to its own stated priorities is a feature [of S-Comm] rather than a reparable flaw."³

Aside from ending S-Comm's dragnet in California, the TRUST Act will also ease the costly burden that S-Comm places on local governments, by setting reasonable limits on responses to ICE's detainer requests. Currently, local jails are exposed to liability as well as sizable costs from ICE detainees. These monies – estimated at \$65 million annually for California, with \$26 million for Los Angeles County alone⁴ – will be better spent on measures that truly improve public safety without leading to illegal incarceration of Californians and without tearing families apart.

California must be a national leader in protecting all its residents from unlawful detentions and unjust deportations. We respectfully urge you to sign AB 1081 into law. Enactment of the TRUST Act is vital to preserving families and restoring trust between state and local law enforcement and immigrant communities. Latinos, Asian Americans, immigrant communities, and other communities of color are looking to you for leadership.

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact Sarahi Uribe, National Campaign Coordinator of the National Day Laborer Organizing Network at 202/332-2871 or sarahiuribe@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

Academy of Latino Leaders in Action
American Civil Liberties Union
AFSC- SENE (American Friends Service Committee - Southeast New England) (Providence, RI)
All of Us or None (San Francisco)
Alliance (San Diego)
Allies of Knoxville's Immigrant Neighbors (AKIN)
American Friends Service Committee - West Region (San Francisco)
American Immigration Lawyers Association (Washington, DC)
American Jewish Committee (Washington, DC)
American Muslim Voice (Newark, CA)
Americans for Immigrant Justice, formerly Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center (Miami, FL)
Asian American Justice Center, member of Asian American Center for Advancing Justice (Washington, DC)

² See ICE, Secure Communities Monthly Statistics (Oct. 27, 2008 through July 31, 2012), available at: http://www.ice.gov/doclib/foia/sc-stats/nationwide_interop_stats-fy2012-to-date.pdf

³ Edgar Aguila-socho, David Rodwin, and Sameer Ashar, *Misplaced Priorities: The Failure of Secure Communities in Los Angeles County*. Immigrant Rights Clinic, University of California, Irvine School of Law (Jan. 2012), available at http://law.uci.edu/pdf/MisplacedPriorities_aguilasochododwin-ashar.pdf

⁴ Judith A. Greene (Justice Strategies), "The Cost of Responding to Immigration Detainers in California." (Aug. 22, 2012), available at <http://big.assets.huffingtonpost.com/Justicestrategies.pdf>

Asian Law Alliance (San Jose)
Asian Law Caucus (San Francisco)
AUCC (Arkansas United Community Coalition) (Fayetteville, AR)
BACC (Bay Area Community Council) (San Francisco)
Black Alliance for Just Immigration (Oakland)
Boston New Sanctuary Movement
Brazilian Immigrant Center (Allston, MA)
Council on American-Islamic Relations, California (CAIR-CA)
California Dream Team Alliance (Los Angeles)
CASA de Maryland (Langley Park, MD)
Casa Esperanza (Brook, NJ)
Casa Latina (Seattle, WA)
Causa Justa :: Just Cause (Oakland)
Center for Popular Democracy (Brooklyn, NY)
CLUE (Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice) (Santa Barbara)
Day Labor Center, Hayward
DC Jobs with Justice
Defending Dissent Foundation (Silver Spring, MD)
DreamActivist California
DreamActivist DC
DreamActivist Georgia
DreamActivist Ohio
DreamActivist Pennsylvania
DreamActivist Virginia
DreamActivist.org
East Bay Community Law Center (Berkeley)
El CENTRO de Igualdad y Derechos (Albuquerque, NM)
English for Action (Providence, RI)
Enlace (Los Angeles)
Equality Alliance of San Diego County (San Diego)
Excluded Workers Congress (Oakland)
Families for Freedom (New York, NY)
Filipino Advocates for Justice (Oakland)
Forks Human Rights Group (Forks, WA)
Four Freedoms Forum (Honolulu, HI)
Georgia Latino Alliance for Human Rights (Atlanta, GA)
Heartland Alliance's National Immigrant Justice Center (Chicago, IL)
HIAS (Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society) (New York, NY)
Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (Chicago, IL)
Immigrant Youth Justice League (Chicago, IL)
Jobs with Justice (San Francisco)
Junta for Progressive Action (New Haven, CT)
Justice Strategies (Brooklyn, NY)
Kansas/Missouri Dream Alliance (Kansas City, MO)
Kentucky Jobs with Justice (Louisville, KY)
La Comunidad, Inc. (Everett MA)
Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center (El Paso, TX)

Legal Services for Prisoners with Children (San Francisco)
 Long Island Immigrant Alliance (Amityville, NY)
 Massachusetts Jobs with Justice (Boston, MA)
 MataHari: Eye of the Day (Boston, MA)
 Missouri Immigrant and Refugee Advocates (Saint Louis, MO)
 Muslim American Society (Raleigh, NC)
 National Center for Transgender Equality (Washington, DC)
 National Council of La Raza (Washington, DC)
 National Day Laborer Organizing Network (Los Angeles)
 National Guestworker Alliance (New Orleans, LA)
 National Immigration Law Center (Los Angeles)
 National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health (Washington, DC)
 National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (Oakland)
 New Orleans Workers Center for Racial Justice
 NUBE (Neighbors United for a Better East Boston)
 OneAmerica (Seattle, WA)
 Oregon New Sanctuary Movement (Portland, OR)
 Out4Immigration (San Francisco)
 Pioneer Valley Project (Springfield, MA)
 Pomona Economic Opportunity Center
 Portland Central America Solidarity Committee (Portland, OR)
 Portland Jobs With Justice (Portland, OR)
 Progreso: Latino Progress (Seattle, WA)
 Progressive States Network (New York, NY)
 Puget Sound Nuclear Weapons Free Zone (North Bend, WA)
 Rebecca Project for Human Rights (Washington, DC)
 Reformed Church of Highland Park (Highland Park, NJ)
 Rhode Island Jobs with Justice (Providence, RI)
 Rights Working Group (Washington, DC)
 Rural Organizing Project (Scappoose, OR)
 SAJE (Strategic Actions for a Just Economy) (Los Angeles)
 San Diego Immigrant Rights Consortium
 San Francisco Immigrant Youth Coalition
 San Gabriel Valley Immigrant Youth Coalition (Los Angeles)
 Services, Immigrant Rights and Education Network (SIREN) (San Jose)
 South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT) (Takoma Park, MD)
 Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (Sacramento)
 Spriggs Law Firm (Tallahassee FL)
 St. Louis Inter-Faith Committee on Latin America (Saint Louis, MO)
 The Episcopal Church (Washington, DC)
 The Ruckus Society (Oakland)
 Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations (Boston, MA)
 Virginia Coalition of Latino Organizations (VACOLAO) (Falls Church, VA)
 WeCount! (Homestead, FL)
 Who Is My Neighbor? Inc. (Highland Park, NJ)
 Wind of the Spirit, Immigrant Resource Center (Morristown, NJ)