

October 3, 2017

The Honorable Raúl Labrador
Chair, Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security
1523 Longworth House Office Building
Washington DC 20515

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security
1401 Longworth House Office Building
Washington DC 20515

Dear Chairman Labrador and Ranking Member Lofgren,

We the undersigned organizations oppose the Legal Workforce Act (H.R. 3711) and urge you to oppose any expansion of the E-Verify program. If passed, this bill will require virtually every employer in the United States to use E-Verify within two years and will allow employers to re-verify every worker. The enforcement-only approach embodied in the Legal Workforce Act will be disastrous for U.S. workers and the U.S. economy.

If the Legal Workforce Act is passed into law, over a hundred thousand U.S. citizens and legally authorized workers could lose wages and jobs due to E-Verify erroneously flagging them as unauthorized to work. They would have to visit Social Security Administration offices to correct an E-Verify error or lose their jobs, yet there are no meaningful protections for them if they lose their jobs due to a government error.

The Legal Workforce Act is too expensive for taxpayers and for employers. According to a CBO analysis of a substantially similar prior version of the bill, the Legal Workforce Act would increase the federal budget deficit by \$30 billion over ten years, while costing the federal government and private employers over \$1.2 billion to implement. Data compiled by Bloomberg found the cost to small business would be even higher: requiring all employers to use E-Verify could cost small businesses \$2.6 billion. Despite these staggering costs, a government-commissioned study found that E-Verify failed to detect unauthorized workers 54% of the time.

The Legal Workforce Act will cause working women to lose their jobs. Due to name inconsistencies in government databases resulting from marriage or divorce, working women will face significant challenges with E-Verify. Despite these disproportionate error rates and employer misuse of the program, the Legal Workforce Act provides almost no meaningful due process for workers who are victims of E-Verify errors or employer misuse of the program.

The Legal Workforce Act would put a tremendous burden on small businesses. Many businesses aren't big enough for a Human Resources department. Yet the Legal Workforce Act would force the 90% of employers who don't currently use E-Verify to enroll in the program and revamp their hiring and verification processes in two years or less or face significant penalties.

The Legal Workforce Act will exacerbate discrimination against Latinos and foreign-born workers. A government-commissioned study found that Lawful Permanent Residents were *four times* more likely to receive an erroneous E-Verify determination and that work-authorized immigrant workers were *twenty-one* times more likely to receive an erroneous E-Verify determination than U.S. born workers.

Instead of superimposing E-Verify on an already broken immigration system, members of the House Judiciary Committee should work together to create a comprehensive legislative solution that provides a road to citizenship for the 11 million undocumented immigrants currently in the country. We urge you to reject this enforcement-only bill and pursue reform that supports, rather than undermines, our country's economic vitality.

Sincerely,

National & Multi-State Organizations

32BJ SEIU	NAACP
America's Voice Education Fund	National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum
Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF)	National Association of Social Workers (NASW)
ASISTA Immigration Assistance	National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA)
CASA	National Day Laborer Organizing Network (NDLON)
Center for Community Change	National Employment Law Project
Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)	National Guestworker Alliance
Centro de los Derechos del Migrante, Inc. (CDM)	National Korean American Service & Education Consortium (NAKASEC)
Church World Service	National Organization for Women
Economic Policy Institute	NETWORK Lobby
Electronic Frontier Foundation	People Demanding Action
Equal Rights Advocates	Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law
Fair Immigration Reform Movement (FIRM)	Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
Family Values @ Work	Sugar Law Center
Farmworker Justice	The Advocates for Human Rights
Friends Committee on National Legislation	The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights
Gamaliel	The Restaurant Opportunities Centers United (ROC United)
National Center for Transgender Equality	UndocuBlack Network
Immigrant Legal Resource Center	UnidosUS (formerly National Council of La Raza)
Interfaith Worker Justice	Unitarian Universalist Service Committee
Jobs With Justice	UNITE HERE
Justice in Motion	United Farm Workers of America
Justice Strategies	United We Dream
LatinoJustice PRLDEF	We Belong Together
Leadership Conference of Women Religious	Workplace Fairness
League of United Latin American Citizens	
Legal Aid at Work	
Make the Road	
Mi Familia Vota	

State & Local Organizations

Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Inc.
Arkansas United Community Coalition
Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Asian Law Caucus
Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Atlanta
Asian Americans Advancing Justice - LA
Border Network for Human Rights
California Immigrant Policy Center
Casa Esperanza
Catholic Migration Services
Centro Legal de la Raza
Chicago Religious Leadership Network on Latin America - CRLN
Chicago Workers' Collaborative
CLEAN Carwash Campaign
Cleveland Jobs with Justice
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)
Connecticut Legal Services, Inc.
Dolores Street Community Services
Enterprising Latinas, Inc.
Equality California
Fair Work Center
Florida Immigrant Coalition (FLIC)
Florida Legal Services, Inc.
Fuerza del Valle Workers' Center
Farmworker Association of Florida
Greater Boston Legal Services
Guatemalan Maya Center
Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights
Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota
Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project
Instituto de Educación Popular del Sur de California (IDEPSCA)
Kentucky Equal Justice Center
KIWA (Koreatown Immigrant Workers Alliance)
La Raza Centro Legal
Latino Community Center
Legal Aid of Marin
Long Island Wins
LULAC Council 7250
Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition
McCree Ndjatou, PLLC
Michigan League for Public Policy
NC Justice Center
New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty
New Mexico Immigrant Law Center
Northwest Immigrant Rights Project
Nuestro Centro
OneAmerica
Organize Florida
Palm Beach County Coalition for Immigrant Justice
Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada
Public Justice Center
R.I. Center for Justice
Reform Immigration for Texas Alliance
Reformed Church of Highland Park
Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services (RAICES)
Safe Harbor Law, LLC
SEIU California
SEIU-USWW
Services, Immigrant Rights, and Education Network (SIREN)
Tacoma Community House
Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition
Tompkins County Immigrant Rights Coalition
University Leadership Initiative
Warehouse Worker Resource Center
Women's Employment Rights Clinic, Golden Gate University School of Law
Worker Justice Center of New York
Workers Defense Project