

Dear Judiciary Committee Member,

On behalf of SEIU's 2 million members, we urge you to reject the four immigration-related bills scheduled for markup in the House Judiciary Committee this week:

- H.R. 1147, the "Legal Workforce Act";
- H.R. 1149, the "Protection of Children Act of 2015";
- H.R. 1153, the "Asylum Reform and Border Protection Act of 2015"; and
- H.R. 1148, the "Michael Davis, Jr. in Honor of State and Local Law Enforcement Act"

Taken together, these bills represent an immigration agenda of blind enforcement rather than the real reform that is so desperately needed. They are devoid of balance and compassion, and instead double-down on more of the same divisive and ineffective policies that have been tried for a generation.

*The Legal Workforce Act* would burden small employers with a costly and complex new mandate that would be policed by the Department of Homeland Security. It would delay or altogether prevent employment opportunities of hundreds of thousands of lawful workers. And, in the absence of companion reforms to legalize the current undocumented workforce and fix the future flow of immigrant workers, it would substantially grow the underground economy, thereby disadvantaging lawful employers and reducing tax revenue.

*The Protection of Children Act* would require DHS to cut corners when determining whether immigrant children have a credible fear that return to their home country would result in their persecution. The certain result is that more children would be returned to imminent danger of torture, rape, or death in some of the most dangerous regions of the world. S. 1149 also includes cruel anti-family provisions intended to discourage placement of unaccompanied immigrant children with their parents while their cases are pending.

*The Asylum Reform and Border Protection Act* would more comprehensively restrict the due process and other protections currently provided to Asylum seekers and others seeking humanitarian relief, including adults as well as children.

*The Michael Davis, Jr. in Honor of State and Local Law Enforcement Act* is one of the harshest anti-immigrant bills ever proposed in Congress. It would make all DREAMers who have received relief under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) deportable once their current designation runs out, and it would undo the administrative policies that the President announced on November 20, 2014, thereby returning millions of long-time resident immigrants who have grown up here or have U.S. citizen children back into the deportation cue. But that is just the start.

H.R. 1148 also includes provisions that would:

- Lead to a massive increase in incarceration of nonviolent immigrants – including erroneous incarcerations of US citizens and lawful immigrants;

- Convert many civil immigration violations into crimes that carry prison sentences, thereby instantly turning millions of ordinary immigrant workers into criminals and further inflating the nonviolent prison population;
- Increase impunity for abuse by state and local authorities who racially profile or otherwise violate civil rights;
- Contribute to family separation by making it harder for many spouses of U.S. citizens and others to adjust status to permanent residence;
- Increase the suffering of crime victims and eliminate protections that allow crime witnesses to come forward;
- Promote less just outcomes by making it more difficult for immigrants seeking relief in numerous contexts to rely on mitigating factors to prevent unwarranted detention or deportation.

It is unconscionable that such an unserious package of harsh and ineffective bills would receive consideration while proposals that would actually make life better for immigrants and for the rest of us remain unaddressed. Specifically, we once again urge the House to take up comprehensive immigration reform that addresses the status of undocumented workers and their families, fixes the flaws in our legal immigration system, and in the process strengthens enforcement in a manner that comports with core American values.

We urge you to oppose these bills. Please contact Josh Bernstein at [joshua.bernstein@seiu.org](mailto:joshua.bernstein@seiu.org) if you have any questions.