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December 4, 2014

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the 1.6 million members of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), I urge you to oppose the "Preventing Executive Overreach on Immigration Act of 2014" (H.R. 5759), sponsored by Rep. Ted Yoho. This legislation seeks to prevent the Obama administration from going forward with the executive actions the President announced on November 20 that would help to fix our broken immigration system. Contrary to H.R. 5759's deeply flawed analysis, the President's actions were fully within his executive powers as granted by the U.S. Constitution. Both Republican and Democratic presidents have used prosecutorial discretion to provide administrative relief to particular groups of undocumented immigrants. Indeed, this reckless bill goes much further than preventing the Obama administration from expanding the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program and implementing the new Deferred Action for Parents of U.S. Citizens and Lawful Permanent Residents. It also would prevent President Obama and future presidents from taking common sense actions to, for example, protect undocumented parents, spouses, and children of military personnel from deportation.

AFSCME strongly opposes the provision in H.R. 5759 that would broadly deny work authorization to the approximately eight million undocumented workers currently in the workforce. By keeping these workers relegated to the shadows in our workplaces, H.R. 5759 would ensure that they will continue to be victims of wage theft, unsafe working conditions and sexual harassment, which hurts **all** working families. President Obama's executive actions curtail these abusive employers who exploit undocumented immigrants and in doing so, drive down wages and benefits of all of our country's workers. The White House Council of Economic Advisors has found that the President's executive actions will increase average wages for U.S.-born workers and reduce the federal deficit.

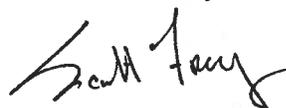
The House of Representatives has had 524 days to act since the Senate passed its bipartisan comprehensive immigration reform legislation (S. 744) by a vote of 68-32. Instead, the House majority leadership has stubbornly refused to hold a floor vote on the Senate bill or any House comprehensive immigration bill. Now, it is holding a symbolic, meaningless vote on H.R. 5759 solely to allow GOP House members to vent their opposition to the steps President Obama has taken within his legal authority to begin to fix our broken immigration system.

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO

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H.R. 5759 would result in subjecting millions of immigrant families to deportation and harm our economy. AFSCME urges you to vote no on H.R. 5759.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott Frey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "S" and "F".

Scott Frey
Director of Federal Government Affairs

SF:FB:mc