

NHLA National Hispanic Leadership Agenda

February 27, 2015

U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20515

Re: NHLA Opposition to S.534, Immigration Rule of Law Act of 2015

Dear Senator:

We write on behalf of the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda (NHLA), a coalition of 39 leading national Latino nonpartisan civil rights and advocacy organizations, to **urge you to vote against S. 534, the so-called Immigration Rule of Law Act of 2015**, which would prohibit the exercise of prosecutorial discretion, an action that sought to address some of the most immediate and damaging flaws in our immigration system. NHLA will closely monitor votes on S. 534 and may include them in future NHLA scorecards evaluating members' support for the Latino community.

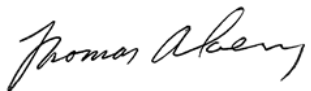
S. 534 would prevent the use of funds or fees for implementing a range of executive actions taken by the president that would shield nearly five million undocumented immigrants from deportation. Among other things, the bill would:

- (1) block the expansion of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program for young people who arrived in the United States as children;
- (2) halt the implementation of the Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents (DAPA) program, which provides protection from deportation for parents of U.S. citizen and Lawful Permanent Resident children;
- (3) remove the discretion that Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) requires in sexual abuse, child exploitation, and domestic violence cases to consider the needs of victims, undermining the bipartisan congressional policies of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and other laws that protect domestic violence survivors; and
- (4) reinstate the flawed Secure Communities Program, which deters individuals from cooperating with law enforcement out of fear of being deported.

S. 534 would continue a failed deportation policy that tears families apart, harms the economy by perpetuating the anti-competitive deviations in the underground economy, and does nothing to promote public safety. The bill would cause disproportionate harm to Latino families, who would be the primary recipients of future grants of deferred action. Instead of seeking to cripple the Administration's attempts to implement fair and humane immigration practices, Congress must work with the Administration to enact bipartisan, comprehensive, and long-lasting immigration reforms.

Please contact NHLA through Andrea Senteno, of MALDEF, at asenteno@maldef.org or 202-572-0467, with any questions regarding this letter. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Thomas A. Saenz
MALDEF, President and General Counsel
NHLA Immigration Committee Co-Chair



Jose Calderon
Hispanic Federation, President
NHLA Immigration Committee Co-Chair

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

American G.I. Forum
ASPIRA Association
Avance Inc.
Casa de Esperanza
Cuban American National Council
Farmworker Justice
Hispanic Association of Colleges & Universities
Hispanic Federation
Hispanic National Bar Association
Inter-University Program for Latino Research
Labor Council for Latin American Advancement
LatinoJustice PRLDEF
League of United Latin American Citizens
MANA, A National Latina Organization
Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund
National Alliance of Latin American and Caribbean Communities
National Association of Hispanic Federal Executives
National Association of Hispanic Publications
NALEO Educational Fund
National Association of Latino Independent Producers
National Conference of Puerto Rican Women, Inc.
National Council of La Raza
National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators
National Hispana Leadership Institute
National Hispanic Council on Aging
National Hispanic Environmental Council
National Hispanic Foundation for the Arts
National Hispanic Medical Association
National Hispanic Media Coalition
National Institute for Latino Policy
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health
National Puerto Rican Coalition
Presente.org
SER Jobs for Progress – National
Southwest Voter Registration Education Project
United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
United States Hispanic Leadership Institute
United States-Mexico Chamber of Commerce
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