

Dear Members of Congress,

The undersigned organizations, representing immigrant, anti-poverty, children's, health care, labor, civil rights, environmental, and many other areas of advocacy write in opposition to H.R. 5717, the No Bailout for Sanctuary Cities Act. This bill could deny states and localities across the country billions of dollars in federal funding for critical services that protect the health and safety of all residents. It would impose new penalties on state and city governments, forcing them to choose between abandoning policies that protect their constituents or losing funding for a vast array of essential programs.

This bill would block the distribution of federal funds to a potentially large number of cities and states that have elected to limit local officials' role in federal immigration enforcement, though it is not clear how this law would be implemented. While undocumented immigrants are ineligible for the major federal public benefit programs, states and localities receive funding for essential services that benefit all residents. This bill is written so broadly that it could cut off significant sources of funding for states and localities and undermine every resident's access to critical services, potentially including:

- Department of Education grants, National School Lunch Program funding, and other forms of federal support for schools, which are not allowed to refuse enrollment by undocumented students.
- Emergency Medicaid, which provides states with funding for emergency care for people ineligible for Medicaid due to their immigration status. In the case of public hospitals run by a city or county, all federal funding for uncompensated care, such as Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital Payments, could be at risk.
- Women Infants and Children program, Commodity Supplemental Food Program, Emergency Food Assistance Program and other nutrition programs that support food banks and other community partners that do not restrict help by immigration status.
- Federal Emergency Management Agency grants for non-monetary in-kind assistance, which are not restricted by immigration status.
- Department of Transportation grants used for the benefits of communities, such as providing free public transit services that might be used by undocumented immigrants.
- Violence Against Women Act grants, such as those supporting violence crisis centers that do not turn away people based on their immigration status.

States and local governments often choose to [limit their role](#) in immigration enforcement in order to meet critical goals and priorities of their residents. Limiting entanglement with federal immigration enforcement [conserves local resources](#) and avoids a deterioration of trust in public institutions, like [public schools](#), that results from local law enforcement working with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Such collaboration is associated with [housing instability](#), [chronic student absenteeism](#), [low birth weight](#), negative child [well-being outcomes](#), and decreased use of [preventive and prenatal care](#) for immigrant communities and their children. Further, many jurisdictions wish to limit deportations given the negative impacts on [family](#)

[stability](#), [child well-being](#), and [trust of authorities](#). Research [demonstrates](#) that protective policies offer the benefit of enhanced community trust in public institutions, including hospitals and health centers, [without](#) causing any increase in crime. H.R.5717 would arbitrarily deprive funding for states, localities, and their residents simply for undertaking reasonable policy measures that aim to enhance public safety and community well-being.

We urge you to reject this extreme legislation and any other attempts to infringe on the rights of cities and states to support their immigrant communities.

Sincerely,

National Immigration Law Center

Center for Law and Social Policy

#WelcomeWithDignity

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ACA Consumer Advocacy

ACCESS REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE

Advocating Opportunity

African Services Committee

AFT

Ahri Center

AIDS Foundation Chicago

Al Otro Lado

Alliance for a Better Community

Allies for Immigration Justice San Luis Obispo County

American Civil Liberties Union

Amica Center for Immigrant Rights (formerly CAIR Coalition)

ANAR

Arkansas United

Asian and Pacific Islander American Health Forum

Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations (AAPCHO)

Asylum Seeker Advocacy Project (ASAP)

Austin Region Justice for Our Neighbors

Autistic Self Advocacy Network

Ayuda

Bend the Arc: Jewish Action

Black Alliance for Just Immigration
Borderlands Resource Initiative
Bridges Faith Initiative
California Association of Food Banks
California Collaborative for Immigrant Justice (CCIJ)
California Immigrant Policy Center
California Pan-Ethnic Health Network
California WIC Association
Caminar Latino/Latinos United for Peace & Equity
CASA
Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice (CCA EJ)
Center for Health Progress
Center for Popular Democracy
Central American Refugee Center
Central American Refugee Center, New York (CARECEN)
Central American Resource Center of Northern California - CARECEN SF
Children's Defense Fund
Chinese-American Planning Council (CPC)
Church World Service
Citizen Action/Illinois
Coalition for Asian American Children and Families
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)
Coalition on Human Needs
Colorado Consumer Health Initiative
Community Food Bank of New Jersey
Cook County Health
Courage California
Detention Watch Network
Eagle Pass Border Coalition
East Bay Refugee and Immigrant Forum
East Bay Sanctuary Covenant
El Vínculo Hispano/Hispanic Liaison
Empire Justice Center
End Hunger CT!

Equal Rights Advocates
Equality California
Erie Family Health Centers
Every Texan
Faith In Action
Families USA
Feeding New York State
Feinstein Center for a Hunger Free America
First Focus Campaign for Children
Florence Immigrant & Refugee Rights Project
Food Bank of Northern Nevada
Food for People
Food Research & Action Center (FRAC)
Freedom Network USA
Futures Without Violence
Georgia Equality
GLIDE Foundation
GRACE - End Child Poverty in California
Haus of a Stranger
Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center
Hawaii Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice
Healthy Kids Happy Faces (HKHF)
Hep Free Hawai'i
Hispanic Services Council, Inc.
Human Rights First
Hunger Action Los Angeles
Hunger Free Colorado
Illinois Accountability Initiative
Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights
Illinois Community for Displaced Immigrants
Immigrant Defenders Law Center
Immigrant Defense Project
Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC)
Immigration Center for Women and Children

Immigration Equality
Immigration Hub
Immigration Law & Justice Network
Inland Empire Immigrant Youth Collective
Institute for Policy Studies, Poverty Project
International Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP)
Jewish Women International
Just Neighbors
Justice At Last
Justice in Motion
Kids in Need of Defense (KIND)
Korean Resource Center
KRC Korean Resource Center
Labor Council for Latin American Advancement (LCLAA)
Latino Community Fund INC. (LCF Georgia)
Law Students for Immigrant Justice at UCLA Law
Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights of the SF Bay Area
League of Conservation Voters
League of United Latin American Citizens District VII
League of Women Voters of the United States
Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County
Little Lobbyists
Mano a Mano Family Resource Center
Mariposa Legal
Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition
Mennonite Central Committee U.S.
Metropolitan Family Services
Midwest Immigration Bond Fund
Movement of Immigrant Leaders in Pennsylvania
National Alliance to End Homelessness
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Association of Social Workers
National Disability Rights Network (NDRN)
National Education Association

National Employment Law Project
National Housing Resource Center
National Immigrant Justice Center (NIJC)
National Immigration Forum
National Immigration Project
National Korean American Service and Education Consortium (NAKASEC)
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Justice
National Network to End Domestic Violence
National Partnership for New Americans
National Women's Law Center
National Working Positive Coalition
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
New England Justice for Our Neighbors
New Jersey Alliance for Immigrant Justice
North Carolina Justice Center
Northwest Immigrant Rights Project
Nourish California
Oasis Legal Services
Oklahoma Policy Institute
Pacific Asian Counseling Services
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
PrEP4All
Presbyterian Church (USA) Office of Public Witness
Prevention Institute
Promise Arizona
Refugee Advocacy Lab
Refugee Congress
Refugees International
Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights
Rural AIDS Action Network
SAFE (Stop Abuse for Everyone) Alliance
San Diego Hunger Coalition
Santa Barbara County Immigrant Legal Defense Center
Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County

Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
Services, Immigrant Rights and Education Network (SIREN)
Shriver Center on Poverty Law
Silver State Equality-Nevada
Sisters of the Presentation, Dubuque IA
South Bay People Power
Tahirih Justice Center
Tennessee Justice for Our Neighbors
The Advocates for Human Rights
The Children's Partnership
The Restaurant Opportunities Center of Pennsylvania (ROC PA)
The Restaurant Opportunities Centers United (ROC United)
Treatment Action Group
U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI)
U.S. People Living with HIV Caucus
UnidosUS
Union for Reform Judaism
United Church of Christ
United We Dream
Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut
Utahns Against Hunger
UU Justice Ministry of CA (Immigrant Justice Action Team)-
Voices for Utah Children
Western Center on Law and Poverty
WHEAT
Wind of the Spirit Immigrant Resource Center
Women Watch Afrika, Inc.
Women's Refugee Commission
Young Center for Immigrant Children's Rights
Young Invincibles
ZERO TO THREE