Re: No on HR 3486 – "Stop Illegal Entry Act"

Dear Representative:

We, the undersigned organizations, write in strong opposition to H.R. 3486 – the Stop Illegal Entry Act. Voting for this bill hands the Trump administration more tools to terrorize our communities at a time when it is deploying federal law enforcement agents for what the President just called a "war" on an American city – and attempting to intimidate millions of people across our nation. The bill would also increase mass incarceration – lining the pockets of the private prison industry, as the administration continues to gut the programs and services working families need.

We strongly urge all Members of Congress to vote no on H.R. 3486. This bill would steeply increase criminal sentences for people convicted of improper entry under 8 U.S.C. 1325 or reentry of individuals previously removed or denied admission under 8 U.S.C. 1326 - and no other criminal conviction. It would also increase the maximum penalty for a repeated improper entry offense from two to five years in prison and increase the maximum penalty for unauthorized reentry from two to 10 years in prison. This buys into Stephen Miller's narrative that all unauthorized immigrants are criminals – criminalizing the parents and spouses of US citizens, Dreamers, long time farmworkers, caregivers, and community members.

H.R. 3486 would impose extreme mandatory minimum sentences, including a sentencing range of not less than five years and up to life imprisonment for illegal entry with a subsequent conviction of an offense punishable by more than a year. It also imposes a sentencing range of not less than 10 years and up to life imprisonment for illegal reentry with a past conviction for a felony or an aggravated felony - which can include a broad range of conduct, such as immigration-related offenses and shoplifting.

H.R. 3486 will fuel mass incarceration - exploding our prison system and overloading our court system, including U.S. Attorney Offices, federal defenders, and Bureau of Prisons staff. H.R. 3486 will also feed racial disparities in our prison system. Mandatory minimums disproportionately impact communities of color. According to the U.S. Sentencing Commission, in 2023, 98.8 percent of those sentenced for illegal reentry under 1326 were Hispanic, 0.5 percent were White, 0.5 percent were Black, and 0.1 percent were other races.¹

The undersigned organizations stand in unified opposition to H.R. 3486 – the Stop Illegal Reentry Act. We call on all elected officials to do the same.

Sincerely,

¹ U.S. Sentencing Commission, "Quick Facts: Illegal Reentry," https://www.ussc.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/researchand-publications/quick-facts/Illegal Reentry FY23.pdf.

American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)

Acacia Center for Justice

Adhikaar for Human Rights and Social Justice

AFL-CIO

African Communities Together (ACT)

America's Voice

Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC

Ayuda

Bend the Arc: Jewish Action

Care in Action

CASA

Center for Gender & Refugee Studies

Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)

Centro de Informacion

Church World Service

Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)

Drug Policy Alliance

Encuentro

Family Focus

Freedom for Immigrants

Freedom Network USA

Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees

Hispanic Federation

Hope Border Institute

Immigrant Defenders Law Center (ImmDef)

Immigrant Defense Project

Immigrant Justice Network

Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project

Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC)

Immigration Equality Action Fund

International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers (IFPTE)

International Refugee Assistance Program (IRAP)

Just Futures Law

Justice At Last

Latino Policy Forum

League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)

Mi Familia Vota

MPower Change Action Fund

Muslim Advocates

National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum

National Immigrant Justice Center

National Immigration Law Center

National Immigration Project

National Korean American Service & Education Consortium (NAKASEC)

National Latina Institute for Reproductive Justice

National Network for Arab American Communities (NNAAC)

National Survivor Network

OPAWL - Building AAPI Feminist Leadership

Service Employees International Union (SEIU)

Services, Immigrant Rights and Education Network (SIREN)

Spanish Community Center

T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights

The Advocates for Human Rights

The ReMIX Way

The Sisters of Mercy of the Americas

The UndocuBlack Network

The Workers Circle: Jewish Culture for a Just World

United Farm Workers

United Food and Commercial Workers International Union (UFCW)

United We Dream

Vera Institute of Justice

Voto Latino

Welcoming America

Wind of the Spirit Immigrant Resource Center

Witness at the Border

Young Center for Immigrant Children's Rights

Regional Organizations Opposing

ACLU People Power Fairfax

Arkansas United

Asian Americans Advancing Justice Southern California (AJSOCAL)

Bend the Arc: Jewish Action, Maryland

Bold Futures NM

Conservation Voters New Mexico (CVNM)

Equality New Mexico

Erie Neighborhood House

Estrella del Paso

Florence Immigrant & Refugee Rights Project

Florida Immigrant Coalition

Hamkae Center

HANA Center

Hawai'i Coalition for Immigrant Rights

Illinois Migrant Council & LULAC-IL Council #5296

Iowa Migrant Movement for Justice

Jewish Activists for Immigration Justice of Western Mass

La Casa Norte

Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center

Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area

Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition

Miami Valley Immigration Coalition

New Jersey Citizen Action

New Mexico Dream Team

New Mexico Voices for Children

New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG)

Northwest Center

Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada

ProgressNow New Mexico

Quixote Center

Somos Un Pueblo Unido

Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC)

Southern Border Communities Coalition (SBCC)

Sunita Jain Anti-Trafficking Initiative, Loyola Law School

Virginia Coalition for Immigrant Rights

Voices for Utah Children

Worker Justice Center of New York