

June 30, 2022

The Honorable Governor Roy Cooper North Carolina State Capitol 1 E Edenton Street Raleigh, NC 27601

Dear Governor Cooper,

As North Carolina business leaders, we urge you to oppose proposed Senate Bill 101 which would harm our economy, drive up labor shortage, and worsen the out of control inflation for every American family. SB 101 requires local law enforcement to execute the duties of federal law enforcement through forced compliance with ICE detainer requests. We respectfully ask that you veto this bill.

SB 101 would harm North Carolina's immigrant communities by subjecting them to undue fear and harassment, and it would harm businesses who have come to rely on their labor every day. This bill would encourage racial profiling and discrimination against immigrants in North Carolina. It would erode trust between law enforcement and North Carolina's immigrant community, and create unnecessary disruption to the workforce when employers are already facing acute labor shortage.

That is why, in addition to employers, this bill is also opposed by Sheriffs Gary McFadden (Mecklenburg County) and Gerald M. Baker (Wake County), whose counties are home to 20% of all North Carolinians. Sheriffs know that the core duty of local police is community safety, not federal immigration enforcement. Immigrants are more likely to report crimes and come forward as witnesses to crimes when they are not afraid. SB 101 erodes trust between law enforcement and local police which endangers safety for all North Carolinian families.

This bill comes as North Carolina faces an unprecedented labor shortage and rising food costs. There are more than 800,000 immigrants living in North Carolina, who contribute \$6.4 billion annually in local, state, and federal taxes. Immigrant workers compose 53.1% of painters, construction workers, and maintenance workers and 49.7% of agricultural workers in the state of North Carolina. Immigrant business owners provide 151,117 jobs to the people of North Carolina and their firms contribute \$24.7 billion in sales to the North Carolina economy. North Carolina's agriculture sector accounts for 17% of the jobs in our state, and of those an estimated 150,000 are migrants, each of whose labor contributes more than \$12,000 in profits to our economy annually. Destabilizing our farm workforce while it already faces a labor shortage can only result in higher labor costs for our farms and higher food prices for every American family.

Voters agree. In 2019, voters in North Carolina's largest counties elected Sheriffs McFadden and Baker who ended cooperation with ICE to strengthen rights and safety of all residents. Voters' reasoning was moral but it was also economic. The poverty rate is on average 2.3% lower and the unemployment rate is 1.1% lower in immigrant-welcoming cities compared to non-immigrant-welcoming cities.

Upending immigrant lives would not only upend North Carolina's workforce, it would undermine the safety and prosperity of every North Carolina family. We urge you to oppose SB101 and use your platform to unleash the economic potential of every North Carolinian including our Dreamers, farm workers and new Americans.

Sincerely,

Martin Eakes, Chief Executive Officer, Self-Help/Center for Responsible Lending Bob Page, Founder & CEO Replacements, Ltd. Griselda Bailey, President/CEO Latin American Chamber of Commerce of Charlotte Leah Ashburn, President & CEO, Highland Brewing Company Oscar Wong, Founder, Highland Brewing Company

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