

September 23, 2011

The Honorable Patty Murray
Co-Chair
Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction
448 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jeb Hensarling
Co-Chair
Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction
129 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: **Cut wasteful and costly 287(g) and Secure Communities immigration programs**

Dear Joint Select Committee Members:

We, the undersigned organizations, urge the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction to cut the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) out-of-control spending on the Immigration and Customs Enforcement ("ICE") 287(g) and Secure Communities programs. Both programs have come under fire by state and local leaders as well as law enforcement around the country. Both programs are relatively.

² A March 2010 OIG report, following a year-long review of the program, culminated in a lengthy and critical report setting forth 33 recommendations for ICE to address in order to ensure the program's integrity, economy, and efficiency.³ A September 2010 update to the OIG added 16 new recommendations, stressing that ICE had failed to remedy fundamental problems. A third OIG report on the 287(g) program is pending and expected to be released in the near future. These reports make clear that the 287(g) program is fraught with systemic problems which ICE has failed to fix.

National Immigration Law Center (*LA CA*) 4
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health (*WDC*)
National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (*OH CA*)
NWU (*B CA*)
The Real Cost of Prisons Project (*NP MA*)
Rights Working Group (*WDC*)
SEIU (*WDC*)
Student Action with Farmworkers (*DN NC*)
Teamster Defense Guard (*CC IL*)
VivirLatino.com (*NY NY*)
Women's Refugee Commission (*WDC*)

Regional/State/Local Organizations

Alianza Indigena Sin Fronteras (*TA AZ*)
American Heritage Service, Inc. (*BWI*)
Amigos Multicultural Services Center (*EG OR*)
Asian Law Alliance (*SO CA*)
Asian Law Caucus (*SF CA*)
Asian Pacific American Legal Center (*LA CA*)
Cambridge United for Justice with Peace (*CH MA*)
Casa Esperanza (*P NJ*)
Causa Justa::Just Cause (*OH CA*)
CHISPAS (*GA FL*)
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles (*LA CA*)
CODEPINK Arizona (*PA AZ*)
Committee for Immigrant Rights (*SR CA*)
Community to Community Development (*BWA*)
Comunidad Liberación/Liberation Community (*DN CO*)
Daya Inc. (*HO TX*)
Desis Rising Up & Moving – DRUM (*JH CA*)
The Ecotopian Society (*BWI*)
The Farmworker Association of Florida (*AP FL*)
Filipino Advocates for Justice (*OH CA*)
Friends of the Guatemalan Tomorrow Fund (*GA FL*)
Georgia Rural Urban Summit (*DA GA A*)
Greater Houston Civic Coalition (*HO TX*)
Guyanese American Workers United (*NY NY*)
Harvard Immigration Project (*CH MA*)
Hispanic Voter Coalition Mecklenburg County (*CH NC*)
Holy Innocents Episcopal Church (*LL MI*)
Houston United/Houston Unido (*HO TX*)
Human Rights Center (*CH NC*)
IDEPSCA (*LA CA*)
Illinois Coalition for Immigrant & Refugee Rights Coalition (*CH IL*)

Interfaith Coalition on Immigration, Minnesota (ICOM) (*St P~~h~~MN*) 5
 IRATE & First Friends (*E~~h~~NJ*)
 Kentucky Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (*L~~h~~KY*)
 La Raza Centro Legal (*StF~~h~~CA*)
 Latin American Legal Defense & Education Fund (LALDEF) (*P~~h~~NJ*)
 Latinos and Supporters Advocating for Justice and Advancement (*H~~h~~MI*)
 Latinos United for Change and Advancement (LUChA) (*M~~h~~WI*)
 Law of the Heart (*StM~~h~~CA*)
 Legal Aid Justice Center-Immigrant Advocacy Program – Virginia (*C~~h~~VA*)
 Literacy Council of Buncombe County (*A~~h~~NC*)
 Los Amigos del Parque (*StF~~e~~NM*)
 LULAC-Syracuse Chapter (*S~~h~~NY*)
 Maine People's Alliance (*L~~h~~ME*)
 Malcolm X Day Committee (*W~~h~~DC*)
 Massachusetts Immigrant & Refugee Advocacy Coalition (*B~~h~~MA*)
 Migration and Refugee Services (*T~~h~~NJ*)
 Mississippi Immigrants Rights Alliance (*J~~h~~MS*)
 Moving Forward Gulf Coast, Inc. (*S~~h~~LA*)
 New Jersey Civil Rights Defense Committee (*S~~h~~NJ*)
 New York Immigration Coalition (*N~~h~~NY*)
 North Carolina Justice Center (*R~~h~~NC*)
 Nowia (*M~~h~~OR*)
 Ometeotl Ministries (*W~~h~~KS*)
 Oregon New Sanctuary Movement (*P~~h~~OR*)
 Organizing for America (*M~~h~~WI*)
 Pacific Southwest District / UUA (*P~~h~~AZ*)
 Pan Left Productions (*T~~h~~ AZ*)
 Political Asylum / Immigration Representation Project (*B~~h~~MA*)
 Pueblo Unido por la Dignidad (*S~~h~~WA*)
 Saint Louis Inter-Faith Committee on Latin America (*St L~~h~~MO*)
 Silicon Valley Alliance for Immigration Reform (*S~~h~~CA*)
 Sisters of Mercy West Midwest Justice Team (*O~~h~~NE*)
 Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, St. Louis Province (*St L~~h~~MO*)
 Tenants and Workers United (*A~~h~~VA*)
 Texas Criminal Justice Coalition (*A~~h~~TX*)
 TX Greens (*H~~h~~TX*)
 Unitarian Universalist Congregation (*StR~~h~~CA*)
 VIB Law (*StJ~~h~~CA*)
 WeCount! (*H~~h~~FL*)
 Westchester Hispanic Coalition (*W~~h~~P~~h~~NY*)
 Wilco Justice Alliance (*W~~h~~C~~h~~TX*)
 Workers Interfaith Network (*M~~h~~ITN*)

¹ DHS, Office of Inspector General, *The Performance of 287(g) Agreements* (Sept. 2010), 4 (emphasis added), http://www.dhs.gov/xoig/assets/mgmttrpts/OIG_10-124_Sep10.pdf

² Government Accountability Office, *Immigration and Customs Enforcement: Staff Efforts* s. (Jan. 2009), <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d09109.pdf>

³ DHS, Office of Inspector General, *The Performance of 287(g) Agreements* (Mar. 2010), http://www.dhs.gov/xoig/assets/mgmttrpts/OIG_10-63_Mar10.pdf

⁴ DHS, Office of Inspector General, *The Performance of 287(g) Agreements: Report Update*. (Sept. 2010), 11-12 (emphasis added), available at http://www.dhs.gov/xoig/assets/mgmttrpts/OIG_10-124_Sep10.pdf

⁵ *Id.* at 7-8.

⁶ Pilar Marrero, “Comunidades Seguras recibe crítica de Pelosi.” *La Opinión* (June 10, 2011), available at <http://www.impre.com/laopinion/noticias/primera-pagina/2011/6/10/comunidades-seguras-recibe-cri-259564-1.html>

⁷ S.R. 112-74, Senate Appropriations Committee Report on the 2012 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Bill (Sept. 7, 2011), 59, available at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CRPT-112srpt74/pdf/CRPT-112srpt74.pdf>

⁸ Letter from Governor Quinn to ICE’s Marc Rapp (May 4, 2011), available at <http://uncoverthetruth.org/wp-content/uploads/2011-05/interminate.pdf>

⁹ Governor’s Press Office, “Governor Cuomo Suspends Participation in Federal Secure Communities Program.” (June 1, 2011), available at <http://www.governor.ny.gov/press/06012011FederalSecureCommunitiesProgram>

¹⁰ Maria Sacchetti and Noah Bierman, “Patrick says he won’t sign Secure Communities program.” *B&B* (June 6, 2011).

¹¹ See generally America’s Voice, Public Safety on ICE: How Do You Police a Community That Won’t Talk to You? (Aug. 2011), available at http://amvoice.3cdn.net/669182cf0231bbf4d6_kdm6bnsbj.pdf