

Letter in Support of Undocumented Immigrants in Wisconsin

Dear Representative / Senator _____

We, the undersigned strongly oppose AB 190, AB 127, and SB 275 for the following reasons.

- Having local officials take on the role of immigration authorities has negative consequences
- Forcing undocumented people out of Wisconsin, will hurt the State economy.
- These bills are an attack on local control.
- The wrongful harassment of citizens, immigrants, and the undocumented is un-American.

AB 127 would prevent and nullify any local ordinance, resolution, or policy that prohibits public employees and law enforcement from investigating and reporting the immigration status of anyone they suspect to be undocumented.

AB 190 and SB 275 would impose financial penalties on cities and towns whose police departments do not participate in aggressive federal immigration enforcement.

Having local officials take on the role of immigration authorities has negative consequences.

Forcing law enforcement to serve as immigration agents will raise cost of police enforcement (and taxes) and make our communities less safe. When immigrants fear the police, it makes them less likely to report crimes, serve as witnesses, and report domestic violence. Instead, local police need to strengthen their ties with local communities, including immigrant communities.

These bills would make it more difficult for undocumented people to work within the community's regulatory framework: drivers' licenses, school registration, titles on vehicles and property, credit and contract law, and labor laws. Allowing everyone to follow regulations makes the community safer. These bills will make it harder to enforce community standards.

Forcing undocumented people out of Wisconsin, will hurt the State economy

Undocumented workers currently fill 55,000 jobs in Wisconsin. They account for \$8.3 billion of spending in the Wisconsin economy and pay millions of dollars in taxes each year. Without these workers, the economy would be impacted and many Wisconsin businesses particularly in the dairy, agricultural, construction, manufacturing, service and hospitality industries would be forced to close.

These bills are an attack on local control

This bill asks state and local officials to take on responsibilities that rightfully belong to the federal government.

The current rules already allow state and local officials to work with immigration officials when requested to apprehend and hold undocumented people. People arrested for serious crimes are already questioned about immigration status and face deportation.

All we are asking is to allow cities and towns the freedom to respond to the wishes of their residents and govern themselves.

The wrongful harassment of citizens, immigrants, and the undocumented is un-American

We are a nation of immigrants built by immigrants. The promise of opportunity to those who are willing to work hard should not be denied to anyone.

The people who will be persecuted by these bills have strong family values, initiative, and only want the best life possible for their children

Instead of persecution, we should be seeking enactment of immigration reform that will help the best and brightest doctors, engineers, entertainers and entrepreneurs stay in the U.S. It will also help us stay true to our founding fathers' wishes.

What we want

- End support for these bills and vote against these bills should they come to vote in the House or Senate
- Create legislation that protects immigrant rights and works toward immigration reform so that millions of people to come out of the shadows, be recognized as contributors to our economy, and stop living in fear.

Thank you for hearing our concerns. We look forward for your response,

Sincerely,