

March __, 2017

Hon. Michael J. Madigan
Speaker
100th General Assembly
Illinois Legislature – House
Springfield, Illinois

RE: Urgent Request to vote YES in Favor of HB0426, Immigration Safe Zones Act

Dear Speaker Madigan and Members of the House of the Illinois Legislature:

The ## undersigned religious, civil rights, ethnic, and immigrant rights organizations and educational institutions, write to strongly support HB0426 Immigration Safe Zones Act. The Immigration Safe Zones Act would prevent immigration enforcement agencies from entering state-funded schools, universities and health institutions unless they present a legal, court-issued warrant.

Immigrant communities are under unprecedented attack. Families are afraid of to take their children to school, go to the grocery store, eat out at restaurants and be The current administration has shown it intends to surpass those record deportation numbers. Recent executive orders have made all immigrants a priority for deportation. At a time when vulnerable communities are under attack, the state of Illinois must demonstrate its commitment to protecting the most vulnerable, as well as standing and acting in solidarity with the immigrant community.

This bill will benefit ALL residents of Illinois, including ALL immigrants, regardless of race, gender, religion, and/or previous interactions with the justice system. There are nearly 2 million immigrants in Illinois, half a million who are undocumented. Millions of Illinois families will feel safe to attend school or seek necessary medical attention without fear of deportation or family separation.

The fear of deportation can harm children's brain and health, potentially for life. The Immigration Safe Zones Act will also benefit all school age children and their families. Approximately 43,000 undocumented children are enrolled in school in Illinois. Children should feel safe at school. The Immigration Safe Zones Act will ensure that immigration officials are not allowed on any school campus unless they have a valid, court issued warrant that is reviewed by the appropriate personnel at the school.

This bill is critical to safety and health of our communities. We urge you to sign on as a co-sponsor of HB0426 The Immigration Safe Zones Act and vote to take this important first step in making Illinois a Welcoming state for ALL immigrants.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. If you have any questions, please contact Mony Ruiz-Velasco at mony@pasoaction.org or Lissette Castillo at lissette@pasoaction.org at PASO – West Suburban Action Project or by phone at 708-410-2000.

Sincerely,