**ANTI-IMMIGRANT & REFUGEE LEGISLATION IS BAD FOR PA**

*Members of both the Pennsylvania Senate and House have introduced legislation targeting immigrant and refugee communities. These bills attempt to solve problems that do not exist, and needlessly create anti-immigrant and anti-refugee sentiments.*

**Policies that allow local law enforcement officials to screen and report the immigration status of anyone they have stopped or arrested jeopardizes public safety.**

* Such measures would decrease, not increase, the safety of our communities by deterring immigrant victims and witnesses from reporting crimes.
* Other states have estimated the cost of implementing similar legislation at $11 to $89 million.
* You cannot tell whether a person is undocumented by looking at them. These proposals would encourage racial profiling and lead to expensive lawsuits.

**Attempting to penalize so-called “Sanctuary Cities” is bad public policy.**

* Over 30 counties in Pennsylvania and multiple municipalities would be directly and immediately affected by this type of legislation.
* These bills would infringe on local government by punishing localities that make practical decisions about how best to serve their populations.
* Creating a new cause of action will open municipalities to needless and expensive lawsuits.
* “Sanctuary” policies do not violate any federal laws, and do not keep ICE from enforcing immigration laws.

**Attempting to punish schools that welcome immigrant and refugee students will harm our state.**

* Welcoming immigrant and refugee students is necessary for the economic well-being of our state
* These bills would infringe on ability of educational institutions to fulfill their mission of providing quality education to all enrolled students.
* “Sanctuary” policies do not violate any federal laws, and do not keep ICE from enforcing immigration laws.

**Increased ID requirements to prove legal immigration status when applying for public benefits would harm vulnerable Pennsylvania residents.**

* Up to 800,000 eligible Pennsylvanians - especially in the low-income, elderly, and African American communities - do not have the required ID and would risk losing important benefits.
* Implementing this type of legislation could cost up to 19 million taxpayer dollars and would result in negligible savings.
* The problem does not exist. Undocumented immigrants are already ineligible for public benefits, and no cases of fraud have ever been found in Pennsylvania.

**Mandating that employers use E-Verify to confirm the work authorization of their employees will restrict job creation in Pennsylvania.**

* Employers who use E-Verify have found that it has a 10-15% error rate. This causes eligible workers to face losing their jobs.
* E-Verify places an undue burden on small business, hampering their ability to create jobs in Pennsylvania.
* In other states where E-Verify has been implemented, employers have moved their business off the books and farmers have seen crops rot in the fields because immigrant workers have left the state.