



TELL PA LEGISLATORS: STOP THE HATE!

Many state legislators believe that because both President Trump and Senator Toomey campaigned on the idea of punishing “Sanctuary Cities” in particular and immigrant/refugee communities in general, that they should follow suit and introduce and support punitive, discriminatory policies that target immigrant and refugee communities.

Now is the time to tell our elected representatives to #StoptheHate!

On February 7, 2017, the PA Senate passed SB10, a bill targeting the many counties and cities in Pennsylvania that have policies limiting local law enforcement collaboration with ICE. This bill will now be considered by the PA House. Legislators are back in their districts until March 13, 2017 so we have a couple weeks to let them know they should focus on issues that will help our communities – raising the minimum wage, funding for public schools, increasing access to healthcare – not passing punitive and discriminatory policies like SB10.

What is Our Goal?

- Make supporting anti-immigrant legislation a political liability
- Lift up a positive message demanding that elected representatives actively support immigrant and refugee communities

What Can You Do?

- Contact Your Legislator! The most important way you can make an impact is by contacting your legislator via phone, letter, and visiting their office.
- Write a Letter to the Editor or Op Ed in your local paper.
- Support your local community based organization by showing up to local events and donating.

Who Should You Call and Visit?

- Contact your PA House representative. Every member of the House should understand that their constituents care about immigrant and refugee communities and expect them to vote against SB10 and all other anti-immigrant legislation.
- Target specific members of the House. Due to the strong Republican majority in the House, anti-immigrant bills are likely to pass if they come to a vote. Our job is to encourage House leadership to drop the bill and not bring it to a vote, and, if presented for a vote, make sure it does not pass with a veto-proof majority. That means focusing most of our energies on the attached list of Representatives.
- Let your State Senator know voting for SB10 was a mistake. SB10 passed in the PA Senate with a veto-proof majority. This included votes by Senators in districts with rapidly growing immigrant communities. If your representative was one of these, let them know they made the wrong decision!

What Do You Say?

- Use the attached Messaging Framework for guidance on what to say when talking to legislators.

MESSAGING FRAMEWORK

In the last couple of weeks the issue of “Sanctuary Cities” has become a focus at both the federal and state level, with policies introduced that would punish jurisdictions that have policies limiting how local law enforcement interacts with federal immigration enforcement (ICE).

Based on the experience by PICC and our member organizations from years of advocating against harmful anti-immigrant legislation, we have put together a messaging framework to push back against the immediate threat of SB10, as well as the other anti-immigrant bills that have been introduced or are likely to be introduced in the coming months. Which messaging point you use will depend on your local legislator and what they are likely to find persuasive.

1) Which Side Are You On? Will you support policies that uphold Pennsylvanian’s values of being diverse and inclusive of immigrants and refugees OR Will you follow Trump and support policies based on hatred and bigotry?

2) SB10 and other anti- “Sanctuary City” bills are contrary to constitutional principles and rule of law. Most of the policies targeted by SB10 and similar legislation simply require local law enforcement to respect constitutional requirements when detaining people. Forcing local law enforcement to act as an extension of ICE and hold people regardless of constitutional requirements is contrary to these principles. Municipalities should be able to make independent judgments about how to keep residents safe instead of being mandated by the state to engage in potentially unconstitutional behavior.

3) SB10 and other anti-immigrant bills will be expensive to implement, and will likely open the state and individual municipalities to expensive law suits. In a time of budget shortfalls, the state legislature should be focused on issues like access to healthcare, fair wages, and education funding that are important to Pennsylvanians, not creating expensive solutions to non-existent problems.

What Do We Want? A State that Welcomes and Protects Immigrants and Refugees

- Policies that ensure local law enforcement does not ask about immigration status or act in any way as federal immigration (ICE) officers. These policies make our communities safer by allowing local law enforcement to build relationships with community and focus on community safety.
- School policies that welcome and protect students and parents regardless of immigration status, religion, race, sexual orientation, or disability. Quality education depends on students feeling safe at their schools.
- An end to stop and frisk, racial profiling, and other police practices that target and criminalize immigrants and communities of color.
- Increased support for ESL and citizenship programs.
- To shut down the Berks Family Detention Center.
- Tuition equity for all students enrolled at universities and colleges in Pennsylvania regardless of immigration status.
- Equal access to driver’s licenses regardless of immigration status.

Messaging Pitfalls to Avoid

Talking about immigration quickly brings us to how we define ourselves as a country and who is a “real” American and who isn’t. On top of that, immigration law is confusing, making it difficult to explain in just a few sentences. This makes debates around immigration emotional and complicated, and it is easy to unintentionally use words and arguments that erase people’s experiences and harm vulnerable communities. This is a brief outline of some of the most common pitfalls we see in immigration debates.

- Good/Bad immigrant narrative: examples of this are “felons not families” or “we are workers not criminals” or “refugees deserve protection because they came the right way”
 - Framing some immigrants as more deserving of protection divides our communities and continues the idea that some people are “more human” or “less human.”
 - Framing refugees as deserving because they have legal status separates them from the larger immigrant rights struggle, and erases the history of discrimination and racism in immigration law and who has been allowed, or not allowed, to enter the country with legal status.
 - This messaging also feeds anti-black narratives around criminality
- Anti-Sanctuary bills are about Philadelphia
 - Philadelphia is not the only city that limits cooperation between local law enforcement and ICE. Currently about 30 counties and a handful of municipalities have similar policies across Pennsylvania.
 - The politics of Pennsylvania mean that pitting Philadelphia against Harrisburg is a liability for any issue, and actually decreases the success of advocacy.
- All pro-immigrant policies are not “Sanctuary” policies. Most policies or statements that claim “sanctuary” status do not provide any meaningful protections against ICE and none of them halt deportations.
 - The term “sanctuary” is connected to a long movement of physically protecting families from being deported. That history should be honored by ensuring claiming “sanctuary” status is connected to community-led definitions and campaigns.
 - Alternatives could include: human rights zone, welcoming campus, 4th Amendment city.
- “We are all immigrants” or “This is a country of immigrants.” This message erases the experiences and history of many people living in this country.
 - Many native peoples lived in this country before Europeans settled here, and the first Europeans to come to this country were not “immigrants” but settlers who pushed out and took land from the native people who already lived here.
 - Those brought to the US as slaves were not immigrants, and formerly enslaved people had a long fight to obtain citizenship.
 - Puerto Ricans and other residents of US territories are U.S. citizens.

Responding to Some Myths and Misinformation

- “People Just Need to Get In Line”: There are only 4 ways to gain permanent legal status in the US: 1) offered a job by a US employer because of a skill; 2) escaping persecution; 3) joining a close family member in the US; 4) winning the green-card lottery. There is no line for most individuals.
- “Immigrants increase crime” or “Sanctuary Cities increase crime”: Like U.S. born citizens, some immigrants do commit crimes. However, studies have repeatedly shown that cities that welcome and support immigrant communities regardless of legal status do not see an increase in crime, and often have lower crime rates than other cities.¹
- “Anyone Can Come to the U.S. as a Refugee”: Under U.S. and international law, a refugee is someone outside his or her own country with a well-founded fear of persecution in that country based on race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion. The United States is one of 28 resettlement countries.
- “We Don’t Know Who These People Are”: The United States decides which refugees are resettled, and refugees are the most thoroughly screened individuals in the United States. Refugees must pass through a series of security screenings, including biographic and biometric checks, medical screenings, forensic document testing, and in-person interviews. The information examined to confirm a refugee’s identity is checked against law enforcement and intelligence databases, including those of the National Counterterrorism Center, Department of Defense, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of State, and Department of Homeland Security. If there is any doubt about who a refugee is, he or she will not be admitted to the United States.
- “We Are Accepting Too Many Refugees”: The vast majority of the world’s refugees live in countries that neighbor the countries that they have fled. Available to less than 1% of the world’s refugees, resettlement is the last resort for refugees who cannot return to their homes and are not permitted to rebuild their lives in a nearby country. Last year over 65 million people were displaced from their country, the U.S. accepted less than 100,000 refugees.

¹ <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/01/26/us/trump-illegal-immigrants-crime.html>
https://www.policefoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Appendix-D_0.pdf
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2017/02/170210165953.htm>

KEY LEGISLATORS

House Leadership

Representatives	District	Counties
Mike Turzai (Speaker of the House)	28	Allegheny County
Dave Reed (Republican Leader)	62	Indiana
Bryan Cutler (Republican Whip)	100	Lancaster
Frank Dermody (Democratic Leader)	33	Allegheny, Westmoreland
Michael Hanna (Democratic Whip)	76	Centre, Clinton

In 2016, HB1885, a bill similar to SB10, was voted on in the PA House. This is a list of the House Democrats who voted for HB1885 and are likely to vote for SB10.

Representatives	District	Counties
Ryan Bizzaro	3	Erie
Mark Longietti	7	Mercer
Chris Sainato	9	Lawrence
Dom Costa	21	Allegheny
Joseph Markosek	25	Allegheny
Harry Readshaw	36	Allegheny
William Kortz	38	Allegheny
Brandon Neuman	48	Washington
Pam Snyder	50	Green, Fayette, Washington
Joseph Petrarca	55	Westmoreland, Armstrong, Indiana
Bryan Barbin	71	Cambria, Somerset
Frank Burns	72	Cambria
Michael Hanna	76	Centre, Clinton
Gerald Mullery	119	Luzerne
Neal Goodman	123	Schuylkill
John Galloway	140	Bucks
Michael Driscoll	173	Philadelphia
Ed Neilson	174	Philadelphia

This is a list of House Republicans who voted for HB1885 and who represent diverse districts with growing immigrant communities.

Representatives	District	Counties
Gene DiGiorolamo	18	Bucks
Harold English	30	Allegheny
Kate Harper	61	Montgomery
Thomas Murt	152	Philadelphia, Montgomery
Alexander Charlton*	165	Delaware

Martina White	170	Philadelphia
John Taylor	177	Philadelphia

*Rep. Charlton was elected in 2016, the previous representative, William Adolph, voted for HB1885.

This is a list of PA Senators who voted for SB10 this year and represent diverse districts with growing immigrant communities.

Representatives	District	Counties
John Yudichak (D)	14	Luzerne, Carbon
Lisa Boscola (D)	18	Lehigh, Northampton
Andrew Dinniman (D)	19	Chester
Robert Tomlinson (R)	6	Bucks
Stewart Greenleaf (R)	12	Bucks, Montgomery
Scott Martin (R)	13	Lancaster
Pat Browne (R)	16	Lehigh
Mike Folmer (R)	48	Dauphin, Lebanon, York