



ANTI-IMMIGRANT 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.

We need policies that reflect our values of compassion, inclusiveness, and diversity and work to end unjust deportations, reunify and keep families together and welcome those seeking asylum and refuge.

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.