

May 18, 2004

The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Hastert,

The undersigned organizations are writing to express strong opposition to the Undocumented Alien Emergency Medical Assistance Amendments of 2004 (H.R. 3722) sponsored by Rep. Dana Rohrabacher (R-CA). This dangerous and ill-conceived proposal burdens hospitals and undermines the security of our nation's public health system.

Under this bill, hospital emergency rooms would be forced to take on the unwieldy and administratively burdensome tasks of enforcing immigration law. Hospitals would not receive critical federal reimbursement for the emergency care of undocumented immigrants unless they question their emergency patients to determine their citizenship, immigration, and financial status, and obtain employer information and biometric data for transmission to the Department of Homeland Security for the purpose of beginning deportation proceedings of those determined to be undocumented.

Furthermore, the bill states that hospitals could deny emergency health services to immigrants thought to be undocumented under various situations, including active labor (if there is significant likelihood that the deportation of the mother during active labor would not cause "material deterioration" of the child), treatment that may exceed \$50,000, and treatment for conditions that existed before the immigrant entered the U.S (potentially cancer, organ failure, etc).

Without a doubt, this proposal, if enacted, would create such widespread fear and confusion among immigrant families – both documented and undocumented – that many, if not most, would avoid seeking emergency hospital services in the most dire of circumstances, and consequently result in numerous accounts of severe complications and death due to lack of medical attention.

It is also short sighted and perilous to the safety and health of all U.S. residents to push a significant sector of the population away from the public health system that tracks and prevents the spread of epidemics.

Though Rep. Rohrabacher's intentions may be to contain emergency health cost and the flow of undocumented immigrants via this proposal, this is certainly not the way to do it. In fact, we believe the only possible outcome of the proposal is the creation of a disastrous and costly public health scenario. We ask that you oppose attempts to move this proposal forward.

We look forward to your reply,

National Organizations

ACORN National
AFL-CIO
American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC)
American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)
American Federation of Teachers
American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)
American Immigration Lawyers Association
American Nurses Association
Asian and Pacific Islander American Health Forum
Asian Pacific American Legal Center
Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations
Association of Clinicians for the Underserved
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs
Catholic Charities USA
Catholic Health Association
Center for Community Change
Center for Women Policy Studies
Children's Defense Fund
Church for the United
Cuban American National Council
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Families USA
Farmworker Justice Fund, Inc.
Global Action on Aging
Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS)
Immigrant and Refugee Rights Project, Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs
Immigration Equality
International Brotherhood of Teamsters
International Rescue Committee
Laborers International Union of North America (LIUNA)
Leadership Conference on Civil Rights
Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR)
Legal Momentum: Advancing Women's Rights
League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)
Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service
MALDEF
NANAY, Inc. (National Alliance to Nurture the Aged and the Youth)
National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium (NAPALC)
National Association for Bilingual Education (NABE)
National Association of Hispanic Nurses
National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems
National Employment Law Project

National Coalition Against Domestic Violence
National Council of Jewish Women
National Council of La Raza
National Health Law Program
National Hispanic Medical Association
National Immigration Forum
National Immigration Law Center
National Korean American Service & Education Consortium
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health
National Latino Behavioral Health Association (NLBHA)
National Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Association
National Network to End Domestic Violence
National Partnership for Women & Families
National Senior Citizens Law Center
National Women's Law Center
NETWORK, A Catholic Social Justice Lobby
People For the American Way
Premier, Inc.
Presbyterian Church (USA) Washington Office
RESULTS
Rural Opportunities, Inc.
Salvadoran-American National Network (SANN)
Service Employees International Union, AFL-CIO, CLC
UNITE!
United Food and Commercial Workers International Union (UFCW)
United Students Against Sweatshops
U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

State & Local Organizations

African Community Resource Center, Inc. – Los Angeles, CA
African Services Committee – New York, NY
AIDS Foundation of Chicago – Chicago, IL
Alabama Latin American Association – Tuscaloosa, AL
Albany Park Neighborhood Council – Chicago, IL'
Alianza del Pueblo – Knoxville, TN
AltaMed Health Services – Los Angeles, CA
Amistades – Johnson City, TN
Annunciation House, Inc. – El Paso, TX
API Legal Outreach – San Francisco, CA
Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services (ACCESS) – Dearborn, MI
Asian American Community Service Association, Inc. – Tulsa, OK
Atlanta Community Food Bank – Atlanta, GA
Ayuda, Inc. – Washington, DC
BARCA, Inc. – McAllen, TX

Border Action Network – Tucson, AZ
Boston University School of Social Work – Boston, MA
Boulder County Safehouse – Boulder, CO
Brazilian Immigrant Center – Allston, MA
Brighton Park Neighborhood Council – Chicago, IL
Brooklyn Perinatal Network – Brooklyn, NY
Brooklyn Task Force on Infant/Maternal Mortality and Family Health – Brooklyn, NY
Calexico Community Action Council – Calexico, CA
California Immigrant Welfare Collaborative – Sacramento, CA
The California Pan-Ethnic Health Network – Oakland, CA
California Partnership – Downey, CA
California Primary Care Association – Sacramento, CA
Caribbean Immigrant Services, Inc – Jamaica, NY
Carlos Rosario International Career Center – Washington, DC
CASA of Maryland – Silver Spring, MD
Catholic Charities, Diocese of Pueblo, Colorado – Pueblo, CO
Catholic Charities Immigration Services, Diocese of Charleston – Columbia, SC
Catholic Charities Migration and Refugee Services – Hartford, CT
Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Santa Rosa – Santa Rosa, CA
Central American Resource Center (CARECEN) – Washington, DC
Centro Comunitario Mexicano – Dallas, TX
Centro Presente – Cambridge, MA
Cesar E. Chavez Foundation – Glendale, CA
Cesar E. Chavez National Holiday! – Los Angeles, CA
Champaign County Health Care Consumers – Champaign, IL
CHARO Corp. – Los Angeles, CA
Chicago Abused Women Coalition – Chicago, IL
Chicago Jobs Council – Chicago, IL
Chicano Federation of San Diego County – San Diego, CA
Child Care Law Center – San Francisco, CA
Children Now – Oakland, CA
Children's Alliance – Seattle, WA
The Children's Health Fund – New York, NY
CIRCLE - Coalition for Immigrants' Rights at the Community Level – York, PA
Citizen Action of New York – Albany, NY
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles – CHIRLA – Los Angeles, CA
Colonias Unidas – Rio Grande City, TX
Commission on the Public's Health System – New York, NY
Commonwealth Catholic Charities – Richmond, VA
Community and Shelter Assistance Corp (CASA of Oregon) – Newburg, OR
Community Child Care Center of Santa Clara County, Inc. – San Jose, CA
Community Health Action Information Network (CHAIN) - Miami, FL
Community Health Partnership – Albuquerque, NM
Community Healthcare Network – New York, NY
Community HousingWorks – San Diego, CA
Community Service Society – New York, NY

Concilio de Inmigracion – Harlingen, TX
Conexión Américas – Nashville, TN
Connecticut Legal Services – Middletown, CT
Council of Latino Agencies – Washington, DC
Coordinating Council of Latino Community Leaders – Doraville, GA
Crisis Center Foundation – Jacksonville, IL
CUNY School of Law – Immigrant Initiatives – New York, NY
Darin M. Camarena Health Centers, Inc. – Madera, CA
DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence – Washington, DC
Dia de la Mujer Latina, Inc. – Marietta, GA
Disabled In Action of Metropolitan New York – New York, NY
East Bay Alliance for a Sustainable Economy – Oakland, CA
The Ebgark Group – Yonkers, NY
En Camino – Toledo, OH
El Centro, Inc. – Kansas City, KS
El Proyecto del Barrio, Inc. – Arleta, CA
El Pueblo – Raleigh, NC
Emerald Isle Immigration Center – Woodside, NY
Enlace Comunitario – Albuquerque, NM
Family Health/La Clinica – Wautoma, WI
Family Services Network of New York, Inc. – Brooklyn, NY
Family Unity-Immigration Services, Diocese of Las Cruces, N.M. – Las Cruces, NM
Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center – Miami, FL
Fuerza Latina – Fort Collins, CO
Gay Men's Health Crisis – New York, NY
Georgia Association of Latino Elected Officials (GALEO) – Atlanta, GA
Greater Hartford Legal Aid – Hartford, CT
Greater Upstate Law Project, Inc. – Albany, NY
HAYOT – Miami, FL
Health Care For All – Boston, MA
Health S.E.T of Colorado – Colorado Springs, CO
Heartland Alliance for Human Needs & Human Rights – Chicago, IL
Hispanic Business Alliance – Memphis, TN
Hispanic Education Center – Indianapolis, IN
Hispanic Health Coalition of Georgia, Inc. – Atlanta, GA
Hispanic Ministry Leadership Team, Archdiocese of St. Paul & Minneapolis – Minneapolis, MN
Hispanos Unidos de Virginia, Inc. – Falls Church, VA
Hogar Hispano, Catholic Charities Diocese of Arlington – Falls Church, VA
Hope Associates – Alexandria, VA
Human Services Coalition of Dade County, Inc. – Miami, FL
Humphrey & Whidden Agency, Inc. – Ft. Myers, FL
Idaho Community Action Network – Boise, ID
Iglesia de Dios Pentecostes, Mision el Buen Samaritano – Hyattsville, MD
Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health – Chicago, IL
Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence – Springfield, IL
Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR) - Chicago, IL

Illinois Maternal and Child Health Coalition – Chicago, IL
Immigrant Rights network of Iowa & Nebraska – Des Moines, IA
Instituto del Progreso Latino – Chicago, IL
International Institute of San Francisco – San Francisco, CA
International Institute of the East Bay – Oakland, CA
Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence – Des Moines, IA
Irish Immigration Center – Boston, MA
Justice Commission ~ Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, St. Paul Province – St. Paul, MN
Justice Committee of the Congregation of St. Joseph – Cleveland, OH
Justice Economic Dignity & Independence (JEDI) for Women – Salt Lake City, UT
Korean American Resource & Cultural Center – Chicago, IL
Korean American Women In Need (KAN-WIN) – Chicago, IL
Korean Resource Center – Los Angeles, CA
Labor Council for Latin American Advancement (LCLAA), Albany/Capital District Chapter – Albany, NY
La Causa, Inc – Milwaukee, WI
Latin American Community Center – Wilmington, DE
Latino Coalition for a Healthy California – Sacramento, CA
Latino Community Development Agency – Oklahoma City, OK
Latino Health and Community Service – Portland, ME
Latino Leadership, Inc. – Orlando, FL
LARASA - Latin American Research & Service Agency – Denver, CO
The Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia – Washington, DC
Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County, Health Consumer Center – San Mateo, CA
Líderes Campesinas – Pamoona, CA
Los Companeros – Durango, CO
Long Island Council of Churches – Hempstead, NY
Long Island Health Access Monitoring Project – Great Neck, NY
Love Sees No Borders – Sunnydale, CA
Latinos United for Change and Advancement, Inc. (LUChA) – Madison, WI
LULAC OKC Council 19002 – Midwest City, OK
Lutheran Coalition for Public Policy in Minnesota – ELCA, - St. Paul, MN
Lutheran Social Services – Appleton, WI
MAAC Project – National City, CA
Mary's Center for Maternal and Child Care, Inc. - Washington, DC
Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition (MIRA) – Boston, MA
Medical and Health Research Association of NYC, Inc (MHRA) – New York, NY
MESA- Moving to End Sexual Assault – Boulder, CO
Mexico Lindo – Gainesville, GA
Midsouth Peace & Justice Center – Memphis, TN
Migrant and Refugee Cultural Support, Inc. (MIRECS) – Silver Spring, MD
Migration and Refugee Services, Diocese of Trenton – Trenton, NJ
Montana People's Action/Indian People's Action – Missoula - MT
Na Loio - Immigrant Rights and Public Interest Legal Center – Honolulu, HI
NARAL Pro-Choice New York – New York, NY

NCADDHM (National Catholic Association of Diocesan Directors for Hispanic Ministry) – Minneapolis, MN
New Hampshire Catholic Charities – Manchester, NH
New Haven Legal Assistance Association, Inc. – New Haven, CT
New Immigrant Community Empowerment – Jackson Heights, NY
New Mexico Coalition Against Domestic Violence – Albuquerque, NM
New York Forum for Child Health - New York, NY
New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation – New York, NY
New York Immigration Coalition – New York, NY
New York Metro Chapter of Physicians for a National Health Program – New York, NY
North Carolina Justice Center – Raleigh, NC
Northern California Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride Coalition – Oakland, CA
Northwest Federation of Community Organizations – Seattle, WA
Northwest Health Law Advocates – Seattle, WA
Northwest Women's Law Center – Seattle, WA
Office of Catholic Social Ministry, Diocese of Las Cruces, N.M. – Las Cruces, NM
Office of Justice and Peace, Catholic Diocese of Richmond – Richmond, VA
Oregon Action – Portland, OR
Organizacion Civica y Cultural Hispana Americana, Inc. (OCCHA) – Youngstown, OH
Pax Christi Memphis – Memphis, TN
Planned Parenthood Federation of NY – New York, NY
Public Justice Center – Baltimore, MD
Pueblo Migrant Coalition, Inc. – Pueblo, CO
Refugee and Immigration Services – Richmond, VA
Repertorio Espanol of New York – New York, NY
Restaurant Workers Association of Koreatown – Los Angeles, CA
Rights for All People - Derechos Para Todos – Denver , CO
Riverside Language Program – New York, NY
Sanctuary for Families – New York, NY
Segunda Generacion - Leaders for Change in Philadelphia – Philadelphia, PA
Seras, Inc. – Falls Church, VA
Service Employees International Union, Local 105 – Denver, CO
Services, Immigrant Rights and Education Network (SIREN) – San Jose, CA
Servicios de La Raza, Inc. – Denver, CO
Sisters of Our Lady of Guadalupe and St. Joseph – Gallup, NM
Spanish Center of Milwaukee – Milwaukee, WI
St. Charles Church – Arlington, VA
Susannah Maria Gurule Foundation (SMG) – Portland, OR
Tahirih Justice Center – Falls Church, VA
Tapestri, Inc. - Avondale Estates, GA
Tempe Hispanic Forum – Tempe, AZ
Tennessee Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence – Nashville, TN
Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition (TIRRC) – Nashville, TN
Texas Civil Rights Project – Austin, TX
Texas Council on Family Violence – Austin, TX
Tompkins County Health Care Access Task Force – Ithaca, NY

Tompkins County Religious Action Group for Health Care Access – Ithaca, NY
UHCAN Ohio - Universal Health Care Action Network of Ohio – Columbus, OH
UJA Federation of New York – New York, NY
Umos – Milwaukee, WI
Unidos por Colombia – Torrance, CA
Union Settlement Association – New York, NY
United Hispanic-Americans, Inc. – Fort Wayne, IN
The Unity Council – Oakland, CA
Violence Prevention Center of Southwestern Illinois – Belleville, IL
Virginia Poverty Law Center – Richmond, VA
Voces Sin Fronteras/Voces Without Borders – Wilmington, DE
VT Network Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault – Montpelier, VT
Washington Citizen Action – Seattle, WA
Washington Defender Association's Immigration Project – Seattle, WA
Washington State Hospital Association – Seattle, WA
Watts/Century Latino Organization (WCLO) – Los Angeles, LA
Western Illinois Regional Council - Community Action Agency – Macomb, IL
William F. Ryan Community Health Center – New York, NY
Wind of the Spirit: Immigrant Resource Center – Morristown, NJ
Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence – Madison, WI
Women's Action Coalition – Memphis, TN
Women Empowered Against Violence, Inc. (WEAVE) – Washington, DC
Women's Supportive Services – Claremont, NH
The Workmen's Circle/Arbeter Ring – New York, NY
YKASEC - Empowering the Korean American Community – New York, NY