



July 12, 2023

The Honorable Tom McClintock
Chair, House of Representatives Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration Integrity, Security, and Enforcement
2141 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative McClintock:

On behalf of ValorUS® (VALOR), a California-based, national anti-sexual violence organization and California's sexual assault coalition committed to advancing equity and ending sexual violence, I am writing in **opposition** to the upcoming hearing, "The Consequences of Criminal Aliens on U.S. Communities." VALOR builds dynamic relationships across a diverse range of communities to influence change, but our work would not be possible without the tremendous efforts of immigrants, especially immigrant survivors of sexual and domestic violence.

Immigrants face multiple barriers when attempting to establish their lives in the United States, including working low-paying arduous jobs, language barriers, and fear and stigma from other communities. Immigrant and farmworkers in remote and rural communities experience workplace violence more frequently than other professions, and in response to this, VALOR began working collaboratively with Líderes Campesinas, a statewide network of California farmworker women. Líderes is the only California and federally-funded Farmworker Women Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Program in the nation. They work to increase the knowledge and capacity of farmworker women, other farmworker advocacy organizations, rural communities, and law enforcement about sexual assault in agricultural fields, and the types of services and remedies that exist to support low-income, migrant farmworker victims of sexual assault in rural California communities. This legislation will greatly impact farmworker women whom already encounter workplace exploitation and further exacerbate inequities within the workplace.

VALOR also partners with the ¡Ya Basta! Center, an organization of service and janitorial workers who educate and work with janitorial workers and supervisors to help them identify and stop sexual harassment, sexual assault and rape in the workplace. Janitorial workers shared with VALOR about the increase in violence targeted at their community, especially during night shifts. This legislation will further silence women working in isolation, and make them particularly vulnerable to sexual harassment and assault, reversing the tremendous work the ¡Ya Basta! Center is doing and placing a chilling effect on immigrant survivors.

This legislation will instill a climate of fear among immigrant communities. Many immigrant victims of violence are already afraid to access resources and support after being harmed, and this will further deter them from receiving help. Dangerous perpetrators of crime will thrive on this fear and exploit their lack of immigration status as a tactic of abuse, maintaining power and control by reinforcing fears of deportation. When victims feel safe to seek help, not only are we holding people who cause harm accountable, but we are increasing public safety. We strongly urge you to consider the ramifications of anti-migrant legislation and the dangerous precedent it would set across the nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sandra Henriquez".

Sandra Henriquez, CEO
VALOR