

# AFL-CIO

## LEGISLATIVE ALERT

April 19, 2023

Dear Judiciary Committee Member,

The AFL-CIO urges you to oppose the Border Security and Enforcement Act of 2023. This imbalanced bill will harm workers, children and families and betray our obligation to protect human rights and human lives. Rather than punitive, enforcement-only approaches, we urge Members to pursue meaningful reforms that expand rights and protections for all.

Successive waves of immigrants and refugees have always helped to build, serve and feed our nation. Today is no different. Far from posing a threat, newly arriving migrants can make valuable contributions to our society when afforded the proper supports to allow them to effectively integrate into our communities. The labor movement is committed to welcoming more refugees, asylum seekers and other forced migrants and helping them to integrate into the workforce with good union jobs.

Real security and progress can only be achieved through humane approaches, and the bill being marked up today violates core principles of human and worker rights. Among many concerns, the bill seeks to severely restrict asylum, reduce protections for children, limit humanitarian options for the administration, and promote detention and deportation of immigrants and families. We must also raise concerns regarding provisions to mandate E-Verify. All too often, employers are able to evade mechanisms like E-Verify and use them as tools to bust unions and chill the exercise of workplace rights. Any serious attempt to use immigration policy to lift wages and standards must start with a broad and inclusive pathway to citizenship, not the costly expansion of a flawed mechanism that fails to ensure basic worker protections.

As a nation, we must uphold our humanitarian obligations and insist on strong protections and rights for all workers, children and families, regardless of immigration status. Amidst escalating displacement and exploitation, we urge you to vote NO on the Border Security and Enforcement Act and instead promote humane, pro-worker approaches.

Sincerely,



William Samuel, Director  
Government Affairs

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**American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations**

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