

May 1, 2023

To Governor Kathy Hochul, Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Speaker Carl Heastie, the New York State Senate and the New York State Assembly:

We, the undersigned worker justice organizations and labor unions, write in strong support of the New York For All Act (A.5686-Reyes / S.987-Gounardes) which will allow for the millions of immigrant workers in our state to better participate in their communities and provide for their families without fear that everyday tasks could lead to arrest and deportation.

For far too long, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) have demonized and demoralized immigrant New Yorkers with raids and scare tactics that have cruelly separated families and harmed communities. As prospects for immigration reform at the federal level remain dire, it is essential that our state take action to protect our communities. Yet, ICE and CBP continue to lean on local government agencies to search for, arrest and deport people and to separate families and communities.

Immigrant New Yorkers carry anxiety in their daily lives that driving to work, picking up their children from school, or visiting a public hospital could lead to being torn away from their families. Employers often exploit immigrant workers' fear of deportation to discourage them from advocating for themselves against workplace abuses and to suppress organizing efforts, depressing standards for all working people. The New York For All Act offers protections that address this, by prohibiting local and state agencies from funneling people into ICE and CBP custody, sharing sensitive information, and using local resources to undertake a federal political agenda. We also know that counties that do not assist federal immigration enforcement have lower unemployment rates, lower poverty rates and higher median household annual incomes.¹

Across the state, labor unions and worker justice organizations recognize that immigrants from all over the world form a vital and inseparable part of our communities and our workplaces. We also recognize that the crisis of systemic racism in our country disproportionately harms Black workers and others workers of color in both the criminal legal and immigration systems. Local agencies conspiring with ICE and CBP is a gross misuse of our tax dollars and local resources to serve the agenda of those who seek to divide us.

To truly stand for worker justice, New York must join states like California, Colorado, Illinois, Oregon and Washington and take action now to send a clear message that we stand by immigrant workers. New York is long overdue. It is time to pass the New York for All Act now.

¹ <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/the-effects-of-sanctuary-policies-on-crime-and-the-economy/>

Signed,

32BJ SEIU

African Communities Together

Alianza Agricola

Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF)

Committee of Interns and Residents SEIU

District Council 37

DRUM - Desis Rising Up and Moving

Jews for Racial and Economic Justice

Laborers Local 79

LatinoJustice PRLDEF

Long Island Jobs with Justice

Make the Road NY

National Council for Occupational Safety and Health

National Day Laborer Organizing Network (NDLON)

New York Committee for Occupational Safety and Health (NYCOSH)

New York Taxi Workers Alliance

North Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters

Professional Staff Congress - CUNY

Rural & Migrant Ministry, Inc.

Street Vendor Project, Urban Justice Center

TakeRoot Justice

UNITE HERE Local 100

United Auto Workers Region 9A

Worker's Justice Project

Worker Justice Center of NY