



April 12, 2024

We at the GALEO Impact Fund share the noble goals of protecting women from keeping our communities safe and secure, and holding criminals of all backgrounds to account. The Honorable Governor Brian Kemp of Georgia is closer to achieving these goals. HB 1105 will help law enforcement and the communities they serve. For these reasons, we strongly urge you to veto HB 1105; your veto will send the clearly right message in Georgia, we can keep our communities safe without sowing division or making harmful generalizations about any segment of our population.

Re: HB 1105, "The Georgia Criminal Alien Track and Report Act of 2024"

Dear Governor Kemp,

Our organization, GALEO Impact Fund, is writing to you regarding HB 1105. As an organization that has been at the forefront of advocating for Georgia's Latino and immigrant community since 2003, we know that comprehensive immigration reform is desperately needed in our country and understand the vital necessity of keeping our communities safe. However, we and our community members have serious concerns about the potentially grave impacts HB 1105 would have as law.

P.O. Box 29506, Atlanta, GA 30359

HB 1105 would mandate local law enforcement agencies, many of which continue to struggle with staffing shortages and limited funds, to enter into costly and pernicious contracts with the federal government. This would include participation in federal programs like 287(g)— a program that only four of Georgia's 159 counties currently participate in— which forces local law enforcement officers to interpret and enforce federal immigration law or else lose state funding and even face prosecution.

Furthermore, this legislation requires local jailers to verify the lawful status of inmates whom they discern to be "suspected foreign nationals"; we are concerned that this language, and the lack of any judicial oversight throughout this process, will encourage profiling and result in the placement of American citizens and legal residents into immigration detainers.

HB 1105 also requires jails to publish quarterly reports publicly detailing the immigration status and crimes of inmates who are not U.S. citizens. We believe that these reports, by limiting their focus to inmates who are not citizens, will distort the reality, which is that immigrants (undocumented as well as those with legal status) do not commit crimes at higher rates than U.S. citizens.^{1,2,3} To perpetuate harmful stereotypes about Latinos and immigrants in our state could embolden those with hate in their hearts to commit violent acts against our community, as we've seen in El Paso, Pittsburgh, and Buffalo.

¹ <<http://www.cato.org/blog/illegal-immigrants-have-low-homicide-conviction-rate-setting-record-straight-illegal-immigrant>>

² <https://ranabr.people.stanford.edu/sites/g/files/sblybj26066/files/media/file/immigration_incarceration_jan2024.pdf>

³ <<https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-criminol-032317-092026>>

**GALEO IMPACT FUND : PO BOX 29506, ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30359 :
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We at the GALEO Impact Fund affirm the noble goals of protecting women from violence, keeping our communities safe and secure, and holding criminals of all backgrounds to account. We have no reason to believe HB 1105 will get us closer to achieving these goals. HB 1105 will drive a wedge between local law enforcement and the communities they serve. For these reasons and more, we strongly urge you to veto HB 1105; your veto will send the greatly needed message that, in Georgia, we can keep our communities safe without sowing division or making harmful generalizations about any segment of our population.

With respect,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jerry Gonzalez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jerry Gonzalez

CEO

GALEO Impact Fund

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