



Tuesday June 13, 2017

Dear Governor Bruce Rauner,

We, as Illinois employers and business associations, are writing to respectfully ask that you sign the Illinois Trust Act: SB 31. With support from law enforcement, and a diverse coalition of business, faith, Latino and immigrant communities in Illinois, this bipartisan legislation will ensure workforce stability, prevent unnecessary disruption to businesses, strengthen trust between immigrants and local police, and enable hardworking, law-abiding immigrants to continue to work, pay taxes, and create jobs here in Illinois.

Immigrants are a crucial part of our workforce and consumer base in Illinois, and the fear generated by increased immigration enforcement over the past 5 months has had a negative impact on commerce in Illinois. Some businesses have seen reduced sales receipts of up to 40%, due to immigrant clientele being too afraid to venture outside of their homes, and increased difficulty in the recruitment and retention of an adequate workforce. Some native-born employers have even begun to accompany immigrant employees when running errands so that the employees feel safe enough to go out.^[1]

In the agriculture sector, farmers already face a labor shortage that has resulted in an estimated \$3.3 billion in missed GDP growth, according to the American Farm Bureau.^[2] We are facing an increasingly difficult time recruiting workers to plant and harvest crops.

“I join with local law enforcement and State’s Attorneys who believe this measure will help foster cooperation between certain communities and law enforcement, which in turn will help keep our state safer,” said **Senate Republican Leader CHRISTINE RADOGNO**, who, along with four other Republican state senators, voted for the bill.

“The TRUST Act will enhance the cooperation between immigrant communities and law enforcement agencies across the state,” said **Senate President JOHN CULLERTON**, “The bill will also facilitate better use of limited resources, allowing police agencies to focus on relationship building with their residents instead of doing the work of federal immigration agents.”

We as employers rely on our immigrant employees to keep our businesses running. Many of them have been with our companies since their founding, some have risen through the ranks to become managers, foremen, and trusted business partners. They work hard everyday doing jobs that Americans are

unwilling to do so that they can provide a better life for their families - and in many cases, they have become extensions of our own families.

The Trust Act would assure our immigrant workforce that they are welcomed in Illinois, and help ensure that agriculture, green industries, hospitality, manufacturers, and healthcare industries have adequate workforce to support job growth in Illinois. We encourage you to sign the Illinois Trust Act - SB31. It is economically important, morally right, politically smart and will make us safer.

Sincerely,

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Co-Host, The Luz and Dolly Show

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Manny Castillo
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Pierres Flowers

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Honey Butter Fried Chicken

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Steven Wang
President & CEO

Wells Plumbing

Ciara Winters
President and CEO
Reach Out Tutoring

Dr. Mario Zapata
President
Associated Women's Health, LTD

[1] Amid Deportation Fears, Sales Down 40 Percent <https://www.dnainfo.com/chicago/20170404/little-village/amid-deportation-fears-sales-down-40-percent-at-little-village-restaurant>; "People are Scared"
<http://www.chicagotribune.com/dining/restaurants/ct-immigration-mexican-restaurant-owners-chicago-story.html>

[2] Farm Bureau Report: Labor Challenges Lead to GDP Loss
<http://www.fb.org/newsroom/new-report-shows-labor-challenges-lead-to-loss-in-gdp-farm-income-as-u.s.-f>