

June 5, 2017

Representative James Lower
Chair, Michigan House of Representatives Local Government Committee
Anderson House Office Building
124 North Capitol Avenue
Lansing, MI 48933

Dear Chair Lower:

I write to you as both Chair and a member of the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners to voice my major concerns with HB 4105 and HB 4334. I believe these bills will have a direct impact on policy that my colleagues and I have recently addressed. They could also have broader detrimental impacts on Washtenaw County's residents and businesses.

It is my understanding that HB 4105 and HB 4334 will require public safety departments to verify the immigration status of anyone they believe could be undocumented. This places an unfair burden on law enforcement officials who are already under tremendous pressure. It could also, even if unintentional, lead to instances of racial profiling. This in turn would strain the hard earned trust between communities and public safety departments, resulting in crimes going unreported because of fears of deportation on the part of those reporting the crimes. All of this will have detrimental effects on public safety outcomes and will undercut the work of public safety officials such as our Washtenaw County Sheriff and our local police and public safety chiefs.

Other problems with HB 4105 and HB 4334 are related to their effects on economic activity and the principles of federalism. These bills will lead to the existing undocumented population being forced away from the productive lives they lead (working, paying taxes and providing vital services to our communities) being forced back into the shadows of society. These bills will violate the notions of local control which have been a hallmark of Michigan's governmental structure. It is not in anyone's interest to take policy authority on these issues away from the local and county government levels where citizens can best interact with their elected officials, and shift it to a far off and disconnected state government.

I ask that you keep these thoughts in mind and not move forward with these bills. If I can be of any assistance to you or provide any further thoughts, please do not hesitate to contact me at labarre@ewashtenaw.org or (734) 945-1298. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Andy LaBarre
Chair, Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners
District 7