



Why Farmers and Migrant Advocates Oppose the Anti-Sanctuary Cities Bill:

The Anti-Sanctuary Cities Bills (HB 4105 and 4334) that are currently in the Local Government House Subcommittee are unnecessary and **harmful to agribusiness and community safety**. We oppose these bills on four grounds.

1. These bills would be terrible for our economy. According to the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Development, fruit and vegetable production has a 1.4 Billion Dollar impact on Michigan's economy – but these crops often rely on migrant and seasonal hand-harvesters, many of whom are undocumented (reportedly 50%). By making Michigan a less-welcoming state we are jeopardizing our own economic stability.
2. These bills will make Michigan less safe. By increasing tension between immigrant communities and police officers, the practical effect of these bills will be reduced cooperation with law enforcement. Even U.S. citizens may be more reluctant to cooperate with police if they believe that doing so will call attention to undocumented family members or friends. Immigrants should feel safe to report crimes to law enforcement without repercussions to themselves, neighbors or family.
3. These bills will encourage racial profiling. By allowing any citizen to sue a city for any rule or policy that may violate these proposed bills, cities will be encouraged to aggressively enforce cooperation with immigration officials to ensure that no one can accuse them of violating these proposed statutes. The court system would also be unduly burdened with politically motivated lawsuits. The bill encourages a culture clash between Michigan Militia-type groups and Civil Rights advocates.
4. The penalty provision of the proposed bill is overly broad and disparately harsh for cities who need to have crimes reported in order to protect the whole of the community, but who have larger immigrant populations than other communities. Given the bills' disincentive for victims of crime and witnesses to come forward, law enforcement and prosecutors in cities with more immigrants will find it harder to protect the public than in towns with fewer immigrants.

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