

Representative Cecil Brockman

District 60
16 West Jones Street
Rm. 2223
Raleigh, NC 27601-1096

Representative Tricia Cotham

District 112
300 N. Salisbury Street
Rm. 528
Raleigh, NC 27603-5925

Representative Michael Wray

District 27
16 West Jones Street
Rm. 2123
Raleigh, NC 27601-1096

Re: [HB10, Require Sheriffs to Cooperate with ICE](#)

Dear Representatives Cecil Brockman, Tricia Cotham, and Michael Wray:

Our country, our state, and our local communities should be places of welcome for everyone seeking safety and opportunity. As Local Progress North Carolina (LPNC), a movement of local elected officials advancing racial and economic justice across the state, we recognize that this legislative session provides a critical opportunity for our communities. We, the undersigned LPNC members, strongly opposed the passage of HB10, a bill which would force local sheriffs to cooperate with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) investigations. **Should Governor Cooper veto the measure, we ask that you vote to uphold his veto and keep this law from taking effect.**

HB10 is an extremist proposal that only serves to threaten the safety of our communities. It erodes trust in government, undermines local autonomy, and can result in increased racial profiling, fear of reporting crimes, and additional negative impacts. If passed, it would force local sheriffs to detain any individuals for ICE who have been charged (not convicted) with any crime. We have already seen the danger and trauma that our neighbors continuously face under the threat of possible deportation and family separation. By requiring local sheriffs to work with ICE, this will only hurt community safety. It will further deter people from collaborating with law enforcement as witnesses to crimes or from coming forward as victims of domestic violence or sexual assault.

We have also seen the harm that similar legislation has caused people of color, immigrants, and working class communities in other states. After passing similar legislation in Texas, Houston reported a [decrease](#) in domestic violence reports. The fear of deportation creates a clear chilling effect on community members' engagement with law enforcement. In Florida, "show your papers" laws have led to incidents of racial profiling, as seen with [this example](#) of a Black U.S. citizen who was detained by ICE and threatened with deportation. This is the third time since 2019 that a bill

requiring local law enforcement to cooperate with ICE has passed in the General Assembly. It was ultimately defeated the past two times, and it is imperative that it not succeed this time.

In addition to these harms, HB10 is part of a larger trend of the federal and state government putting the financial burden of immigration enforcement on local governments. HB10 will create another unfunded local mandate, increasing the incarceration costs that cities and towns in North Carolina will have to bear. The federal government is not required to reimburse local facilities for these costs and our communities already deeply feel the impact: in 2019 alone, North Carolina taxpayers paid for the detention of 1,041 people seeking to immigrate in state custody. It is fiscally irresponsible to increase the costs that state and local governments are already footing. We should be investing our state and local dollars into public schools, housing, parks, and all the things that we need to live and thrive in North Carolina.

What keeps us and our communities safe is creating an environment of care and welcome, not one of criminalization and deportation. We should encourage people to participate in civic life, to engage with their larger communities, and to see the government as a resource for them. This bill will make that impossible, only further embedding the fear of ICE throughout our local spaces. We are calling on you to help protect our neighbors and make sure that North Carolina is a place where everyone feels welcome and safe.

We know that you all understand that our immigrant neighbors are core to our communities. In 2019 and 2022, we were able to defeat similar bills together. As local elected officials and state representatives we all have a common goal to meet the needs of our diverse communities. **We ask that you join us in continuing to advocate for racial justice, immigrant justice, and community safety and uphold a veto on HB10 by Governor Cooper.**

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jessica Anderson, Town of Chapel Hill Councilmember

John Bonitz, Town of Pittsboro Commissioner

Javiera Caballero, Durham City Councilmember

Heidi Carter, Durham County Commissioner

TJ Cawley, Town of Morrisville Mayor

Barbara Foushee, Town of Carrboro Councilmember

Matt Hughes, Town of Hillsborough Mayor Pro-Tempore

Khem Irby, Guilford County School Board Member

Wendy Jacobs, Durham County Commissioner, Vice Chair

Jillian Johnson, Durham City Councilmember

Christina Jones, Raleigh City Councilmember

Barbara Mallett, Town of East Spencer Mayor

Mary Beth Murphy, Guilford County Commissioner

Eliazar Posada, Town Carrboro Councilmember

Susan Rodriguez-McDowell, Mecklenburg County Commissioner

Millicent Rogers, Durham County School Board Member

Susan Romaine, Town of Carrboro Mayor Pro-Tem

Kim Roney, Asheville City Councilmember

Shawn Rush, Town of East Spencer Mayor Pro-Tem

Damon Seils, Town of Carrboro Mayor

Sammy Slade, Town of Carrboro Councilmember

Karen Stegman, Town of Chapel Hill Councilmember, Mayor Pro-Tem

Tyler Swanson, Wake County School Board

Jenna Wadsworth, Wake County Soil and Water Supervisor

Jennifer Weaver, Town of Hillsborough Mayor