



March 25, 2021

The Honorable Roy Cooper
North Carolina Office of the Governor
20301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-0301

Dear Governor Cooper:

We are local elected officials serving in towns, cities, and counties across the great state of North Carolina. We come to you as allies committed to immigrant communities and community safety.

Local law enforcement collaboration with federal immigration enforcement erodes trust in our communities, undermines community autonomy, and can result in [increased racial profiling](#), [fear of crime reporting](#), and additional negative impacts. Furthermore, we know that immigration enforcement negatively impacts [immigrant mental health](#), [birth outcomes](#), and [trust in local law enforcement](#).

Senate Republicans introduced SB 101 (Require Cooperation with ICE 2.0) alongside Senate Bill 100 (Police Funding Protection Act) to further target Black and Brown communities. The legislature is pushing racist and divisive legislation rather than taking up Medicaid expansion or prioritizing the economic relief that our communities desperately need.

SB 101 forces Sheriffs to comply with requests to hold immigrants past their criminal court release date. Currently, patterns of holding immigrants past their release date are voluntary and in other places have been ruled [illegal](#). This proposal would change that and force Sheriffs to hold immigrants 48 hours longer, to give Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) time to take over custody. These types of policies encourage racial profiling -- a history made famous in Arizona with Sheriff Joe Arpaio and also apparant throughout this state.

Our communities already feel the impact of local immigration enforcement and are also footing the [bill](#) for incarcerating [immigrants](#). In 2019, North Carolina taxpayers paid for the detention of 1,041 immigrants in state custody.

We are fortunate to have community members willing to engage in our electoral processes to elect Sheriffs who will adjust local law enforcement's relationships with ICE based on community input. We encourage this form of community participation and we urge you to support them during these challenging times.

We are your allies and we stand ready to help you make the case against this racist power grab. A clear position now on this and other anti-immigrant bills like HB62: Gov. Immigration Compliance and HB29: Verification of Immigration Status - SAVE will make it less likely for us to become divided in the future. When and if this comes to a veto, we will support you in publicly opposing SB101. This is not the first time we've seen this kind of proposal, and we hope your veto will allow us to focus on additional pressing issues, especially as we navigate the challenges presented by the pandemic.

Thank you for the continued leadership.

Sincerely,

Apex Town Council Member Audra Killingsworth
Carrboro Mayor Lydia Lavelle
Carrboro Mayor Pro Tem Barbara Foushee
Carrboro Town Council Member Damon Seils
Carrboro Town Council Member Jacquelyn Gist
Carrboro Town Council Member Randee Haven O'Donnell
Carrboro Town Council Member Sammy Slade
Chair of Durham County Commission Brenda Howerton
Chapel Hill Mayor Pam Hemminger
Chapel Hill Town Council Member Allen Buansi
Chapel Hill Town Council Member Amy Ryan
Chapel Hill Town Council Member Jessica Anderson
Chapel Hill Town Council Member Karen Stegman
Chapel Hill Town Council Member Michael Parker
Chatham County Commissioner Karen Howard
Durham City Council Member Charlie Reece
Durham City Council Member Javiera Caballero
Durham County Commission Vice Chair Wendy Jacobs
Durham Mayor Pro Tem Jillian Johnson
Hillsborough Mayor Jennifer Weaver
Hillsborough Town Commissioner Matt Hughes
Orange County Commissioner Mark Dorosin
Pittsboro Town Commissioner John Bonitz
Salisbury Mayor Pro Tem Al Heggins