



Say NO to HR 256

Punishing Children and Crime Victims Is NOT the Solution to Our Immigration Problems.

HR 256 Punishes the Children of Undocumented Persons by Banning Them from Public Elementary and Secondary Schools.

- **This ban clearly violates the United States Constitution** (*Plyler v. Doe*, 457 U.S. 202 (1982)). This provision will lead to a costly and futile legal battle. Indeed, the blatant violation of the Constitution begs the question of whether the bill is meant to lower Georgians' taxes or is political grandstanding that drains the State's pocketbook.
- This ban **punishes innocent children** who "can affect neither their own parents' conduct nor their own status." *Plyer*, 457 U.S. at 220.
- Such a ban **would create an entire class of uneducated, illiterate individuals**: "The ban would impose "a lifetime hardship on a discrete class of children not accountable for their disabling status. The stigma of illiteracy will mark them for the rest of their lives." *Id.*

Requiring State and Local Officers to Enforce Federal Immigration Law Makes Us less Safe.

- Police officers are **not equipped** to enforce immigration law. The immigration code is complex - even more complex than the tax code. Federal immigration agents undergo a 17 week training course in immigration law before they go on duty. There is no way state and local governments can train all police officers around the state adequately.
- Forcing officers to enforce federal immigration law takes away their time, energy and resources they have to enforce criminal laws. This would **result in a decrease in crime solving and prevention**.
- This requirement would **discourage** documented and undocumented immigrants and US citizens from **reporting crimes** including domestic violence, fires, and other hazards. People would have two options, (1) report the crime and you, your family, and friends would come under scrutiny for immigration violations or (2) protect yourself from such scrutiny and allow the crime to go unpunished. Crimes would go unpunished and certain individuals would be targeted by criminals.
- This would **invite** officers to stop and question people of certain ethnic backgrounds, which runs contrary to the effort of US law enforcement in 22 states to stop **racial profiling**.

Barring Undocumented Students from Attending State Colleges and Universities Costs More than Allowing Enrollment.

- This ban would prohibit students from attending schools **even if they pay the full out-of-state cost** as all other out-of-state students. Currently, undocumented students do not get a "free ride" to state schools, they pay like any other student. In fact, these students pay a greater share of their educational costs than other students because they cannot obtain any state or federal financial aid.
- **The cost of not educating undocumented students far outpaces the cost of allowing them an education.** Accordingly, the trend in this area (as evidenced by laws in 9 other states) is to allow undocumented students in-state tuition under certain circumstances, rather than ban them all-together. These students are likely to stay in the US whether or not they go to college. Going to college, however, increases their contribution to economic growth while decreasing their dependence on public/community assistance.