



January 13, 2015

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Dear Representative:

On behalf of the 1.6 million members of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), I urge you to oppose each of the five amendments to H.R. 240, the FY 2015 Department of Homeland Security (DHS) appropriations bill that will be considered. These partisan policy riders would reverse and otherwise undermine President Obama's immigration executive actions. In a time of heightened terrorist threats as evidenced by the mass murders in Paris, it is extraordinarily reckless for the House GOP leadership to play politics with DHS funding in order to appease the far right of its caucus. This is a particularly appalling time to put into peril funding for the federal agency entrusted with protecting our homeland and securing our borders. The House should pass the clean, bipartisan funding bill agreed to months ago and reject these poison pill amendments.

In addition to setting up a dangerous game of chicken with the White House over funding for our national security, these amendments would undo important immigration reform policy. President Obama and his administration has used the powers granted to the executive branch by the U.S. Constitution to issue a series of executive actions necessitated by House inaction, including establishing and expanding the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, establishing the Deferred Action for Parental Responsibility (DAPA) program, prioritizing public safety and national security in its deportation policies, and enhancing public safety by replacing the failed Secure Communities program with the Priority Enforcement Program. Many of these policies are aimed at keeping families together by protecting from deportation those who were brought to the U.S. as children and parents of U.S. citizens and Legal Permanent Residents. They recognize millions of immigrants' long-standing ties to our country and to the communities in which they live. And, by providing work authorization to several million currently undocumented, law-abiding workers, the underground economy will shrink, thus removing unfair competition for above-board employers who must now compete with low-road employers who exploit immigrant workers living in the shadows. Providing legal status through the mechanisms established in the president's executive actions will also increase tax revenues and invigorate local economies.

I urge you to vote no on:

- **Aderholt Amendment:** Prohibits funds or fees to be used for the DAPA program, as well as reverses most executive actions that provide for enforcement priorities to better protect all Americans.

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO

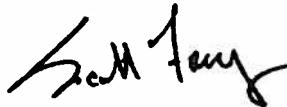
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- **Blackburn Amendment:** Eliminates the DACA program, putting DREAMers at risk of deportation from the only country they have known as home.
- **DeSantis Amendment:** Prevents ICE from setting enforcement priorities and could result in the deportation of domestic violence victims.
- **Salmon Amendment:** Sense of Congress that due to Affordable Care Act provisions, DREAMers should not be granted deferred action or work authorization. This is extremely far afield from DHS funding.
- **Schock Amendment:** Sense of Congress that USCIS must process other categories in the legal immigration system before undocumented immigrants. This would adversely affect asylum seekers and domestic violence victims.

Funding the DHS and adopting new immigration policies are two very separate matters. The Department is facing a funding cliff on February 27. H.R. 240, as originally introduced, reflects a bipartisan agreement for funding DHS through the end of this fiscal year. Job one is for both houses of Congress to pass this bill without amendments.

If H.R. 240 comes to the House floor with any of the above amendments included, AFSCME strongly urges you to vote no.

Sincerely,



Scott M. Frey
Director of Federal Government Affairs Department

SF:FB:rfs