IMMIGRANT RIGHTS’ GROUPS CALL FOR NC GOVERNOR TO VETO LATEST ATTEMPT TO FORCE COOPERATION WITH ICE

RALEIGH, NC – Last week, the North Carolina General Assembly approved Senate Bill 101 “Require Cooperation with ICE 2.0,” a bill that would require sheriff’s deputies across the state to become part of the federal government’s deportation machine. North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper now has until July 10 to veto this bill before it becomes law.

Known as NC’s version of the “Show Me Your Papers” law, SB 101 would make voluntary participation with ICE mandatory for all sheriffs. In 2019, Governor Cooper successfully vetoed a similar bill despite attempts to override his veto. If SB 101 bill is vetoed, we expect the state legislature to try to do the same again during the legislative session.

“We are sick and tired of the harassment from federal and local authorities,” said Martha Hernandez, member of Comite de Accion Popular (CAP). “We have gotten this country and this state through this pandemic; our power is great and we are willing to use it to ensure we don’t go back to these dangerous agreements with ICE. We all deserve to live with dignity.”

“We urge Governor Cooper and lawmakers to stand firmly with our immigrant community and against the latest racist attack coming from the General Assembly,” said Sejal Zota, Legal Director of Just Futures Law. “Ensuring and maintaining a veto is the only way to protect the rights of North Carolinians against increased policing in Black and brown communities.”

“This bill puts more people in danger of deportation and would only create more fear and distrust between our community and law enforcement,” said Iliana Santillian, Executive Director of El Pueblo. “Our communities and streets are less safe when ICE is roaming them.”

“This is a blatant retaliation attempt against voters who elected sheriffs who vowed to end 287(g) agreements,” said Stefania Arteaga, Campaign Strategist for the ACLU of North Carolina. “We urge Governor Cooper to use his power to protect immigrant communities and veto SB 101 before the looming veto deadline.”

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Just Futures Law is part of The Alianza de Derechos de los Inmigrantes de Carolina del Norte (ADICN) / Immigrants’ Rights Alliance of North Carolina is a coalition of more than 30 organizations dedicated to protecting and defending the rights of immigrants in North Carolina.