

Monday, September 11, 2023

Senator Tom Umberg
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 6530
Sacramento, CA 95814

Senator Josh Newman
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 6520
Sacramento, CA 95814

Senator Dave Min
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 6710
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Orange County Elected Officials Support The HOME Act — AB 1306 (Carrillo)

Dear Senators Umberg, Newman, and Min:

We, the undersigned Orange County elected officials, write to respectfully ask for your yes vote on AB 1306 - the HOME Act (Harmonizing Our Measures for Equality), which would ensure that Californians are not excluded based on where they were born from benefiting from criminal justice reforms that were passed by this legislature. The HOME Act would prevent the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) from transferring to federal immigration authorities individuals who have earned release through these reforms.

AB 1306 would ensure that immigrant Californians who earn release from state prison under existing criminal justice laws can come home instead of being double punished and cruelly transferred to ICE where they experience indefinite detention and, oftentimes, permanent separation from their families and communities. Many Californians who have experienced the pain of ICE transfers, including community leaders like [Sandra Castaneda](#), [Ny Nourn](#), [Phoeun You](#), [Saresh Prasad](#), [Gabby Solano](#), and [Tin Nguyen](#) – a Garden Grove resident – have led efforts across the state to advance the HOME Act.

In Orange County, we now face a crossroads between regressing back towards a legacy of anti-immigrant leadership and progressing forward by reckoning with the ways local leaders and governments have upheld an immigration system that disproportionately harms Black, Indigenous, Latino, Asian, and Pacific Islander communities. We have an opportunity to address this historic, racial injustice by supporting and passing the HOME Act to defend the civil and

human rights of immigrants and refugees. This bill is an opportunity to directly address the racism rooted in the criminal justice and immigration systems.

It is imperative that as Orange County elected officials, we unequivocally reject the resurgence of Trumpian scapegoating rhetoric and firmly support efforts to end harmful policies of double punishment for immigrants and refugees who have served their time and who have earned release under broadly supported, existing criminal justice reforms previously passed by the state legislature – yet are still prevented from reuniting with their families and communities simply because of their place of birth. The HOME Act would prevent CDCR from transferring people to federal immigration authorities who are eligible for release pursuant to specified provisions, including people who received their convictions as youth, elderly individuals, and medical parole releases. Those provisions also include clemency actions by the Governor, as well as re-sentencing or vacatur of one's conviction under SB 1437 (Skinner, 2018), AB 256 (Kalra, 2021), or AB 124 (Kamlager, 2021). By ensuring immigrants and refugees who have earned release under existing reforms are truly able to return to their communities and rebuild their lives, we can further our commitments to upholding our shared values of fairness and equality.

The HOME Act is the next step toward a vision of California where we set the example for equality under the law that must include immigrants and refugees. It is how we can continue to make our way forward, together. Orange County must continue on our path of progress.

The HOME Act passed the Assembly Public Safety, Judiciary, and Appropriations committees and the Senate Public Safety and Appropriations committees.

The HOME Act will ensure the constitutional right to equal justice under the law, affirm our values in upholding the civil and human rights, and end the double punishment of immigrants and refugees. We respectfully ask for your support of this bill that will transform the lives of many immigrant and refugee communities in Orange County and CA and **vote yes on AB 1306**.

Sincerely,

Farrah Khan
Irvine Mayor

Ahmad Zahra,
Fullerton Councilmember

Benjamin Vazquez
Santa Ana Councilmember

Kathleen Treseder
Irvine Councilmember

Johnathan Hernandez
Santa Ana Councilmember

Carlos Manzo
Westminster Councilmember

Zeke Hernandez
RSCCD Trustee

Hector Bustos
SAUSD Board Clerk

Juan Gabriel Álvarez
AESD Board Member

Carolyn Torres
SAUSD Board President

Rigo Rodriguez
SAUSD Board Member

Jose Paolo Magcalas
AESD Board Member

Alfonso Alvarez
SAUSD Board Vice President

Katelyn Brazer Aceves
SAUSD Board Member