



Connecticut Students for a Dream  
*Empower. Educate. Advocate.*

March 29, 2015

Dear Senator Coleman, Representative Tong and Members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Alison Martinez-Carrasco and I am a member of CT Students for a DREAM. I am testifying in support of HB 7039. The undocumented immigrant community that makes up our state has the right to feel protected by the police rather than hesitate to ask for their help whenever their safety is being jeopardized. As a member of this immigrant community I can tell you first hand that there is constant fear of our status being revealed to Immigration and Customs Enforcement simply by having the presence of police officers in the same room. That may sound exaggerated. But it is part of a real stigma in our community which comes from a long line of our members being racially profiled and questioned by police officers about their immigration status, although they are not allowed to do that. In result, we as human beings live in the shadows and our wellness becomes tarnished.

I am fortunate to be a recipient of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) because I can rely on a temporary safety guard from deportation for the next two years. But that is not the same case for many members of my community whom do not qualify for DACA such as my parents. I can vividly recall many times where my family has risked their safety, and feared reporting any crime to the police because we were scared of ICE knowing about our immigration status. Whenever my parents drive to work or do anything that requires driving I constantly check my phone and track how long they have been gone because I have to be prepared should it be the case that they get questioned by the police, and their immigration status be revealed to ICE.

Therefore, I plead that the following recommendations in the TRUST Act will be made in order to ensure consistent policies throughout the state:

- **Prevent unconstitutional detentions and racial profiling** by ensuring that CT law enforcement officers do not detain any individual based on any ICE detainer requests.
- **Restore trust between the police and community** by prohibiting CT law enforcement officers from sending information to ICE about individuals who are in CT custody and keeping immigration status confidential.
- **Ensure consistent policies** amongst all state and local agencies and clarify that probation officers are also law enforcement officers.
- **Address wrongful detentions** by ensuring that any individual wrongly detained by CT based on an ICE detainer request has legal recourse.

- **Ensure that local agencies do not spend resources on civil immigration enforcement** by increasing transparency on the funds spent and the numbers of people detained by local agencies based on ICE detainer requests.

The longer the wait is to approve these recommendations, the longer our community suffers. There needs to be confidentiality of immigration status and other private information for anyone who interacts with the police.

Thank you for your time,

Alison Martinez-Carrasco

