



May 9, 2011

Honorable Andrew Cuomo
Governor of New York
State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

Last week, the Governor of Illinois and the Illinois State Police took a critical step towards protecting the rights of their immigrant communities by terminating the state's Secure Communities (S-Comm) Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Through this action, no police in Illinois will share fingerprints with ICE—no new counties will be activated and counties that have S-Comm currently operating will be deactivated. We commend Illinois for taking this action.

Given New York's immigrant heritage and our leadership role in the nation, we firmly believe that our State, too, must immediately end this destructive program. Many of us have joined dozens of organizations in New York over the past year in raising a wide range of concerns about S-Comm and calling for an end to our State's participation in the program. It is critical that New York now join Illinois to show that stopping S-Comm is both necessary and doable.

Like us, Illinois felt that there was no choice but to completely withdraw from S-Comm. In his letter to ICE, Governor Pat Quinn pointed to **"the conflict between the stated purpose of Secure Communities and the implementation of the program."** It could not be more clear that this program serves as a dragnet for ICE to meet its draconian deportation quotas. In Illinois, less than 20% of the people ICE deported due to S-Comm were convicted of a serious crime. ICE statistics for New York show that the vast majority (approximately 80 percent) of those detained by ICE because of S-Comm were never convicted of a crime. Even more importantly, S-Comm undermines the critical work we all have undertaken for so long to protect due process, end racial profiling, restore trust in the police, and stop unfair deportations.

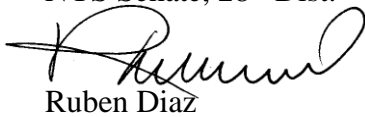
Especially at a time of increasing recognition of the terrible problems posed by S-Comm, we cannot afford to continue to let our immigrants get dragged through ICE's deportation machinery. Just last week, U.S. Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren, joined by U.S. Senator Robert Menendez, put a spotlight on the problematic S-Comm program, calling for "thorough investigations [of ICE] into any misconduct, including possible violations of criminal law."

As a state that is proud of its tradition of upholding and protecting civil, immigrant, and human rights, we must stop S-Comm in New York. With 24 of our 62 counties already activated, we have no time to lose. We look forward to working with you to immediately terminate our S-Comm MOA in order to truly make New York a state that protects the rights of all communities.

Sincerely,



José Serrano
NYS Senate, 28th Dist.



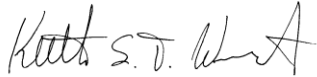
Ruben Diaz
NYS Senate, 32nd Dist.



Ruth Hassell-Thompson
NYS Senate, 36th Dist.



Bill Perkins
NYS Senate, 30th Dist.



Keith L.T. Wright
NYS Assembly, 70th Dist.



Marcos Crespo
NYS Assembly, 85th Dist.



Carl E. Heastie
NYS Assembly, 83rd Dist.



Micah Kellner
NYS Assembly, 65th Dist.



Brian Kavanagh
NYS Assembly, 74th Dist.



Thomas Duane
NYS Senate, 29th Dist.



Liz Krueger
NYS Senate, 26th Dist.



Gustavo Rivera
NYS Senate, 33rd Dist.



Thomas J. Abinanti
NYS Assembly, 92nd Dist.



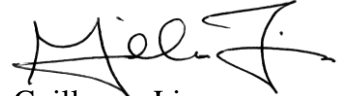
Jeffrey Dinowitz
NYS Assembly, 81st Dist.



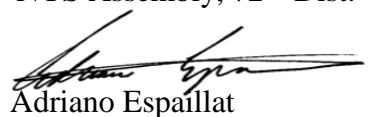
Vanessa Gibson
NYS Assembly, 77th Dist.



Joan L. Millman
NYS Assembly, 52nd Dist.



Guillermo Linares
NYS Assembly, 72nd Dist.



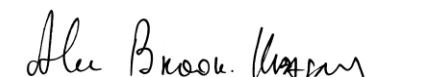
Adriano Espaillat
NYS Senate, 31st Dist.



Jose Peralta
NYS Senate, 13th Dist.



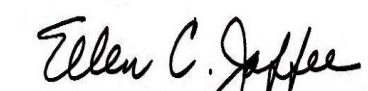
Daniel Squadron
NYS Senate, 25th Dist.



Alec Brook-Krasny
NYS Assembly, 46th Dist.



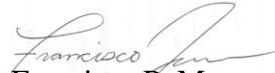
Richard N. Gottfried
NYS Assembly, 75th Dist.



Ellen C. Jaffee
NYS Assembly, 95th Dist.




Grace Meng
NYS Assembly, 22nd Dist.



Francisco P. Moya

NYS Assembly, 39th Dist.



Jose Rivera

NYS Assembly, 78th Dist.



Robert J. Rodriguez

NYS Assembly, 68th Dist.



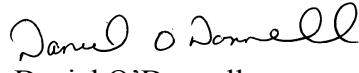
Addie J. Russell

NYS Assembly, 118th Dist.



Nelson L. Castro

NYS Assembly, 86th Dist.



Daniel O'Donnell

Daniel O'Donnell

NYS Assembly, 69th Dist.



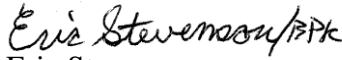
Peter M. Rivera

NYS Assembly, 76th Dist.



Linda B. Rosenthal

NYS Assembly, 67th Dist.



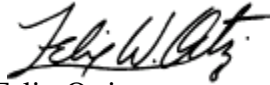
Eric Stevenson

NYS Assembly, 79th Dist.



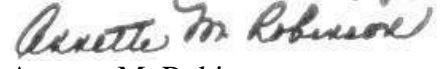
Nick Perry

NYS Assembly, 58th Dist.



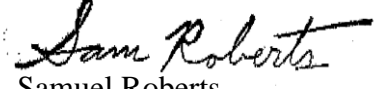
Felix Ortiz

NYS Assembly, 51st Dist.



Annette M. Robinson

NYS Assembly, 56th Dist.



Samuel Roberts

NYS Assembly, 119th Dist.



Matthew Titone

NYS Assembly, 61st Dist.