



## **The Border Security and Enforcement Act of 2023, Leads Away From Compassion, Do Not Adopt This Proposal**

RE: Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice – Vote Recommendation: **VOTE NO**  
Opposing the Border Security and Enforcement Act of 2023

DATE: Tuesday, April 18, 2023

Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice urges the House Judiciary Committee to **VOTE NO** on the *Border Security and Enforcement Act of 2023* when it is marked up by the Committee on April 19.

— # - # —

“Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice joins our immigrant-led, faith-based, and immigrant advocate allies to strongly encourage members of Congress to reject the Border Security and Enforcement Act of 2023, in the House Judiciary Markup on April 19. We ask members not to adopt the proposal. Our faith calls us to a higher standard of compassion and respect for the inherent worth and dignity of every person. We implore members to heed the wisdom of similar teachings by many faiths,” said **Pablo DeJesús, Executive Director, UUSJ**.

“This bill unfortunately contains a number of provisions that would deeply restrict the long-held rights of people fleeing violence and oppression to be fairly considered for asylum in this country.

“The United States is of course a nation of immigrants, whose economic and cultural vitality has been enhanced over the years in innumerable ways by the very kind of people this bill targets. The bill rejects our proud tradition of welcoming migrants and instead embraces the kind of practices that have recently outraged the conscience of Americans: placing migrants in unsafe and unhealthy conditions in border towns during endless waits for consideration of their claims; separating families; placing people who have committed no crime in prison-like facilities; denying ready access to medical care and legal representation; rejecting people who have assisted US and allied troops on foreign battlefields; and more.

“Our faith asks us to respect the inherent worth and dignity of every person and to pursue justice, equity, and compassion in human relations. As such, it leads us to reject the kind of provisions included in this bill and to respectfully ask members of Congress to also reject them.

“Instead, we should be moving expeditiously to rebuild an immigration system that provides full consideration of the claims of migrants, treats them in ways that respect their wellbeing, and is based on the knowledge that we all do better when we welcome sojourners and use their talents to strengthen our communities,” concluded **DeJesús**.

**Contact:** Pablo DeJesús, Executive Director, UUSJ | [info@uusj.org](mailto:info@uusj.org)