



TENNESSEE
**Immigrant
& Refugee
Rights**
COALITION



Priority Bills for the Tennessee General Assembly 2019

Bills to Support

Increasing College Access



SB1230(Yarbro)/HB1407(Powell): The Tennessee Dream Act

Allows undocumented students who have graduated from TN high schools to qualify for in-state tuition and state-based financial aid and scholarships, ensuring that undocumented students who have grown up in our schools are treated the same as their peers when it comes to college access in our state.

This bill would boost economic growth by creating a more educated workforce, allowing us to compete globally and fill critical labor shortages. When people obtain higher paying jobs, they also grow our tax base. More than 20 states, including Kentucky, Oklahoma, and Florida, already have policies in place to increase access to college for undocumented students because they recognize the benefit to their entire states.

Fixing HB2315, the So-Called "Anti-Sanctuary City Bill"



SB0931(Yarbro)/HB1110(Powell): The Restore Trust Bill

A common-sense policy change that seeks to restore trust between local immigrant communities and state and local governments by exempting certain agencies and individuals from the anti-sanctuary city law. For example, SB0931/HB1110 clarifies that police departments do not have to inquire about the immigration status of victims or witnesses, encouraging the cooperation of immigrant communities in reporting and solving crimes. The bill would also exempt health and education agencies.

The participation of immigrant residents and community trust in public agencies is critical to fulfilling the mission and duties of our state and our local communities. However, cooperation between state and local agencies and federal immigration enforcement inevitably leads to crimes going unreported, reliance and trust in the police dropping, and community safety being compromised.



SB0507(Akbari)/HB0558(Camper): The True Cost of the "Anti-Sanctuary City" Law

This bill would require the state legislature to be held accountable for the mandates they give to local governments and for Tennessee taxpayer to have a more accurate picture of the costs local government incur by doing the work of the federal government in immigration. Public Chapter 973 tries to force local governments to comply with unconstitutional and voluntary requests made by federal immigration agents.

We believe no county should honor Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) "detainers", which are unconstitutional requests to hold people without a warrant or probable cause. However, it is wrong for the state to legislate an unfunded mandate that forces localities to violate individuals' fourth amendment rights and require them to bear that risk and cover the cost of federal immigration enforcement. If the state is going to require that, then local taxpayers should have a true accounting of how much money is being diverted from education, infrastructure, and healthcare and instead putting towards violating the constitution and detaining our neighbors.



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Priority Bills for the Tennessee General Assembly 2019

Bills to Oppose

Rep. Griffey's Anti-Babies & Families Bills:

The Tennessee General Assembly is responsible for ensuring the next generation of Tennesseans have the chance to thrive, but freshman representative Bruce Griffey from Paris, TN has introduced a number of bills that would harm babies and make life impossible for certain U.S. citizen babies and their families. They include:



HB1238 (Griffey)/SB1279(Pody): An assault on pregnant Tennesseans and their babies

Prenatal care is crucial for healthy babies, healthy mothers, and healthy families, but this bill strips undocumented pregnant Tennesseans from accessing prenatal care, WIC and other health benefits necessary for the well-being of their U.S. citizen babies. This bill not only undermines our values, it is terrible health policy and fiscally irresponsible. Lacking access to prenatal care can result in premature births,, birth defects, and birth complications that lead to longer hospital stays, specialized care, and long-term complications.

SB1278 (Griffey)/HB0662(Pody): Denying U.S. citizen babies their rights

All children born in the U.S. receive birth certificates, which provide legal identity and are crucial to accessing services that U.S. citizens are entitled to like their social security numbers, TennCare, school enrollment, etc. Without a birth certificate, people are de facto stateless. This bill is cruel and morally reprehensible and will undoubtedly implicate the state in costly and embarrassing litigation.

HJR0047(Griffey): A shameful resolution that undermines our values by declaring people born in this country are not U.S. citizens

HJR 47 undermines our values and is un-American. The Citizenship Clause of the 14th Amendment upholds our highest ideals, that anyone born in this country can enjoy the full rights of citizenship. Ratified shortly after the abolition of slavery, the

14th Amendment was designed to ensure that states could never again create an underclass of Americans. The Citizenship Clause is one of the cornerstones of our civil rights system, which strives to make sure that all Americans are treated fairly and equally. Millions of Americans are born in the U.S. to immigrant parents, but efforts to undermine their citizenship sends the wrong message and could harm our reputation as a welcoming place for all.

Other Anti-Immigrant Bills



HB0562(Griffey)/SB1504(Hensley): Taxing hardworking Tennesseans

This bill is an unnecessary tax increase on all money transactions, hurting businesses and consumers, in order to build a wasteful border wall that Congress chose not to fund.



HB1239(Griffey)/SB1165(Hensley): Creating barriers to employment

Adds unnecessary barriers to employment that harms small businesses by expanding the costly and inaccurate e-verify program to include employers with 6+ employees.



SB1305(Pody)/HB0835(Rudd): Banning IDs from other states

This bill would ban identification from states, like California, Illinois, Washington, Colorado, New Mexico, and more, that also provide IDs to undocumented residents of their state. Essentially, tourists and people traveling on business would not be able to buy a beer or drive a car in Tennessee, harming our economy and sending a hostile and unwelcoming message about our state.



SB1503(Hensley)/HB1391(Cepicky): Reducing educator accountability when teaching English Language Learners (ELL).

This bill gives teachers a pass if they have ELL students and lowers expectations which would have long term consequences for educational success and integration.