



Serving Colorado, Promoting Justice

March 15, 2017

The Honorable Pete Lee
House Judiciary Committee
Via email: pete.lee.house@state.co.us

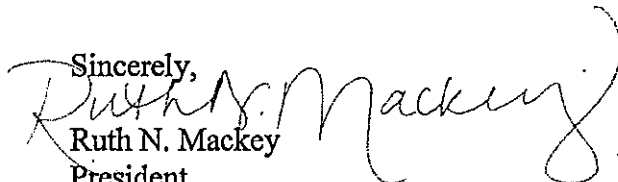
Dear Chairman Lee:

On behalf of the Colorado Hispanic Bar Association ("CHBA"), I am writing to express my support for HB 17-1230: Protect Colorado Residents from Federal Government Overreach ("HB 1230" or the "Bill"). The mission of the CHBA is to promote justice by advancing Hispanic interests and seek equal protection under the law for the Hispanic community. HB 1230 will help ensure that all Colorado residents, including the State's Hispanic residents, are guaranteed equal protection under the law.

The Bill seeks to preserve Colorado's state rights by mandating that Colorado law enforcement officers do not assist any federal overreach that would set up a registry for Muslims, create internment camps, or attempt to identify individuals by their race, religion, nationality, or color of their skin. As the Committee is well aware, federal policies that infringe on the rights of minority populations, purportedly in the interest of national security, are not unprecedented. For example, under "Mexican Repatriation" policies enacted by federal, state, and local officials in the 1930s, between 500,000 and 2 million individuals of Mexican descent were deported or expelled from the United States. Historians estimate that approximately 60% of those individuals were American citizens. Furthermore, pursuant to President Roosevelt's Executive Order 9066, at least 7,318 detainees, mostly American citizens of Japanese descent, were forcibly imprisoned at the Amache Relocation Center near Granada, Colorado, from 1942-1945. It is incumbent upon Colorado's state and local officials to learn from the mistakes of our past and act to prevent overreaching policies that deprive minority populations of their constitutional rights. HB 1230 is a proactive bill that enables Colorado to affirmatively state that we refuse to use our resources to support discriminatory policies and laws.

For all of the foregoing reasons, the CHBA respectfully requests that the House Judiciary Committee refer HB 1230 to the House Committee of the Whole. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Ruth N. Mackey

President

Colorado Hispanic Bar Association

cc: Members of the House Judiciary Committee