

WE ARE AMERICA SOMOS AMERICA



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LOCAL ALLIANCE OF FAITH, LABOR, & COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS TO BOYCOTT AUGUST 2 HOUSE HEARINGS IN SAN DIEGO

Immigration reform advocates call on Congress to “stop the spin” and get back to work

SAN DIEGO—As the US House of Representatives announced its second in a series of hearings in San Diego which will further delay a meaningful solution to the nation’s immigration crisis, the local WE ARE AMERICA-SOMOS AMERICA Alliance has determined it would not attend the hearings. The restrictive hearings, which do not allow for public comment, “serve no purpose in fixing our broken immigration system other than dividing this country,” said Reverend Madre Patricia Andrews-Callori, a San Diego leader in the nationwide WE ARE AMERICA Alliance. “Immigrants contribute to and participate in our society. The House of Representatives has no business holding hearings that are intended to associate immigrants with terrorists and present this hard-working community as a drain on our society’s resources.”

Research has shown that immigrant workers are essential to the US economy. According to a study conducted by the American Immigration Law Foundation, immigration has contributed to more than 25 percent of the nation’s labor force growth over the past twenty years.

While the House and Senate continue to delay the process of reconciling their vastly different immigration bills, the immigrant community and their allies have mobilized to advocate for comprehensive reform. The nationwide Alliance is organizing events throughout the country to assist eligible immigrants in the citizenship process and to become politically informed and engaged.

On the same day as the House of Representatives hearings, the local Alliance is joining with nationally syndicated radio host and community activist El Cucuy to promote civic participation in all immigrant communities. The El Cucuy Foundation’s nationwide “Votos por America—Votes Throughout America” campaign started July 31 in San Jose, California and continues across the country, ending in Washington D.C.

The San Diego WE ARE AMERICA/SOMOS AMERICA Alliance represents diverse political affiliations and faith traditions, social and economic backgrounds, and racial and cultural heritages. We stand united in seeking comprehensive and humane immigration reform. Several leaders of affiliated organizations are available for interviews to discuss our decision to boycott the Congressional hearings both today and tomorrow, and their names and contact information follows:

- Reverend Madre Patricia Andrews-Callori, 619/993-0903, madrepatricia@aol.com
- Estela De Los Rios, 760/877-0277, estela@hhrfha.org
- Ben Monterroso, 858/774-1006, benm@seiu2028.org

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"Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free. The wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me. I lift my lamp beside the golden door!" -- Emma Lazarus, on the Statue of Liberty