

June 23, 2008

(To the members of the Ohio Legislature who voted against the bill)

We, the undersigned organizations and individuals, applaud your vote against House Bill 477, the English-only measure sponsored by Representative Robert Mecklenborg.

As the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* wrote in a June 1 editorial, HB 477 “is a solution in search of a problem.” This bill would only divide Ohio’s residents at a time we need to come together. Our state faces a great deal of challenges. We don’t need policies that target immigrants and Hispanics but end up harming business investment and economic development in our state.

We need policies that look for ways to build bridges among all Ohioans, and particularly among minority communities, who are more empowered when speaking with a united voice. A united Ohio is a stronger Ohio.

We deeply appreciate your leadership in voting against a bill that would send the wrong message about Ohio to the rest of the country and the world.

Sincerely,

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