

ACLU of Michigan Legislative Docket: Immigration

The ACLU maintains a presence in Lansing that enables us to pass policies that expand civil liberties or prevent the passage of policies that are hostile to civil liberties. Through traditional lobbying techniques lobbying, advocacy, and advocacy the legislative program seeks to advance and protect our civil liberties.

The ACLU of Michigan's legislative program works on a breadth of issues. To give you an idea of what we've been up to, we have provided a brief summary, our position on the issue and where the bill is currently situation in the legislative process. We have stated our position on each bill using brief descriptors:

- **Actively Support/ Oppose:** *The ACLU considers this bill high priority and has taken direct action to support or opposing the bill. The bill has, more likely than not, seen movement in the Legislature during the current session.*
- **Support/Oppose:** *Based on its own policies, the ACLU supports or opposes the bill but has not taken an affirmative action OR the legislation has not moved through the legislature and therefore the ACLU has not needed to take direct action at this point.*
- **Remain Neutral:** *As written, the bill does include some civil liberties issues but the ACLU has taken no direct action to support or oppose the legislation.*

E-Verify for Food Assistance

House Bill 4160

Sponsor: Rep. Tom Hooker (R-Byron Center)

ACLU Position: **Actively Opposed**

Status: Referred to House Families, Children and Seniors Committee

This legislation will require to Department of Human services to use the Federal E-Verify system to ascertain the legal residency status of all applicants for benefits, service, or assistance through the Department of Human Services. The legislation prohibits DHS from offering benefits and services to individuals who are not legal residents according to e-verify. The legislation requires that should DHS determine an applicant is not a legal resident as according to e-verify that they are obligated to notify a federal, state or local law enforcement official.

E-Verify is a government database that's purpose is to make a list of everyone who is eligible to work. The theory is it will prevent undocumented workers from getting jobs in order to end our immigration problems. The ACLU has raised concerns about E-Verify for years. Government errors and mistakes in the system keep people, including eligible workers, from working. There are privacy implications as the

system gathers huge pools of data on individuals living in the country. Mandatory E-Verify is incredibly costly and creates bureaucracy risks. Perhaps one of the biggest problems with E-Verify is that the program is more likely to mistakenly flag naturalized citizens or other foreign-born lawful workers. Because of this, employers may be less likely to hire people who look or sound foreign.