



CHANGE THE WORLD FROM HERE

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Commission Streamlining Task Force

Re: Immigrant Rights Commission

Dear Task Force Members:

As a former chair of the Immigrant Rights Commission, I write to strongly encourage maintaining the IRC as an independent commission.

The second Trump administration has created a new normal in immigration enforcement, challenged long-standing principles of citizenship and immigration policies, and established new standards for deportation and asylum processes. Emboldened by a deferential Supreme Court, the departments of justice and homeland security are engaging in racial profiling during ICE raids, removing individuals to third countries where they have no ties, accessing government data on noncitizens that were previously confidential, firing immigration judges who have high asylum approval grant rates, arresting individuals and families appearing at their removal hearings, detaining record-setting numbers, canceling temporary protections previously granted to hundreds of thousands by the Biden administration, and creating war zones in sanctuary cities viewed as sympathetic to noncitizens. Noncitizens and their allies—including immigration attorneys and civil rights advocates—are being challenged day in and day out with this new regime.

More than ever, our community needs to understand the intricacies of immigration law and policy. More than ever, our community needs to consider all strategies in response to the new normal. The IRC plays a critical role to achieve that level of understanding. More than ever, we need a strong IRC.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Ong Hing".

Bill Ong Hing
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