



# Monthly Newsletter

YOUR SOURCE FOR COMMUNITY INFORMATION

## Immigrant Rights' Organizations Oppose Introduction of Federal Anti-Immigrant and Anti-Sanctuary Bills

On June 29th, the U.S. House of Representatives passed two anti-immigrant bills that, if they become law, will fuel Trump's deportation machine., HR 3003: "No Sanctuary for Criminals Act" & HR 3004: "Kate's Law." Both bills undercut local law enforcement's ability to keep our communities safe, jeopardize national security & criminalizes immigrants and refugees nationwide. Regarding No Sanctuary for Criminals Act, NM representatives voted Lujan Grisham - No, Steve Pearce - No, and Ben Luján - Yes. Regarding Kate's Law, NM representatives voted Tom Udall - No, and Martin Trevor Heinrich - No.

NM Rep. Michelle Lujan Grisham, Chair of The Congressional Hispanic Caucus urges fellow politicians to oppose these two bills, "Simply put, these two bills won't make our neighborhoods safer - in fact, they will jeopardize national security, undermine the Constitution, and threaten public safety. It is no surprise that major law enforcement groups across the country have strongly opposed the immigration policies put forward by the GOP Congress and the Trump Administration. American families deserve real solutions to our broken immigration system—that means

scapegoating immigrant communities and threatening the effectiveness of local law enforcement."

Marian Mendez-Cera, organizer with El CENTRO de Igualdad y Derechos reaffirms, "These bills undermine constitutional protections, public safety, and local authority and would grant an already out-of-control Trump administration unfettered authority to detain, criminalize, and deport our families. Instead of passing discredited enforcement-only legislation, Congress should move forward on enacting just immigration reform legislation that provides a pathway to citizenship and eliminates mass detention and deportation programs that undermine fundamental human rights."

We denounce the No Sanctuary for Criminals Act as well as Kate's Law and will use every tool at our disposal to fight back including working with local elected officials to ensure that they continue to stand with us once again to defend immigrant families, fighting back in the courts, and mobilizing in the streets. The two pieces of legislation will now be sent to the US Senate for consideration.

## Paid Sick Leave Closer to Becoming Reality Thanks to the Hard Work of Our Members and Allies

Opposition to paid sick leave is trying to circumvent the democratic process by insisting that the full text of the healthy workforce ordinance appear on the ballot. To do this, the text would have to appear in a tiny, illegible font. After Judge Alan Mallot ruled that the entire text of the Healthy Workforce Ordinance must appear on the October ballot, El CENTRO along with other members of the Healthy Workforce ABQ coalition asked Judge Mallot to compel the Albuquerque City Clerk to provide a copy of a draft municipal ballot.

Our campaign's attorney Elizabeth Wagner commented that "the reason why the City of Albuquerque does not want to collaborate with us for a fair election is that they do not want the Paid Sick Leave ordinance to pass. This law would protect the right to take paid days off to assist family or oneself in situations of illness, births, among other emergencies." The summary will fit on the ballot in a legible type size; the full text will only fit if printed in an illegible type size, approximately 6 to 6.5 point font. If the ballot is printed in such small type, many middle-aged and elderly voters -- or anyone with even mild vision impairment -- will be unable to read their ballots.

At the City Council meeting on June 19th, District Council Member Klarissa Peña presented an amendment that ensures a clear summary of the question on paid sick leave and a readable copy of the entire statute available at each voting poll. This amendment was approved that night at the Council meeting.

However, Mayor Berry vetoed the resolution and is demanding that only the full HWF text go on the ballot. Call Mayor Berry today at 505-768-3000 and tell him to stop playing politics with the health and welfare of our families.

Demand that he stands for a fair election with a legible summary of the Healthy Workforce Ordinance on the October ballot and copy of the full ordinance available to every voter.

Thank you Councilor Klarissa Peña very much for your leadership in making the Healthy Workforce a reasonable choice and Councilmembers Ike Benton, Pat Davis, Diane Gibson and Ken Sanchez for their support!



Mayor Berry is demanding the City Council put the Healthy Workforce question on the ballot in teeny, tiny, illegible text.

**(505) 768-3000**

## Featuring our Members: Alicia Saenz, a grandmother, student, a committed hard working activist

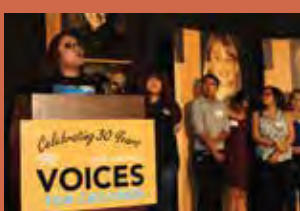
Every month we highlight one of our active members in the fight for immigrants' and workers' rights. Your stories are a source of strength for El CENTRO. This month we feature one of our members from our Workers' Committee: Alicia Saenz. Alicia is a mother of four children and a grandmother of two. She became involved with El CENTRO years ago when she was taking citizenship classes with OLÉ. She has recently participated in our Healthy Workforce and Wage Theft campaigns, she

did outreach and organizing work for our Rise Up ABQ May Day event, and last year she spent countless hours registering voters for the national elections. Alicia encourages members and allies to advocate for paid sick leave in this coming municipal elections "reflecting on the many times, I went to work sick or left ill family members at home, paid sick leave days are crucial for the collective well-being of our communities."

### El CENTRO Proudly Receives the Spirit of Hope Direct Service Award from NM Voices for Children

It is an honor for El CENTRO to share to The Spirit of Hope Award along with Somos Un Pueblo Unido granted by NM Voices for Children on June 26th. This annual award honors some of New Mexico's dedicated, hard-working organizations engaged in making a difference in the lives of children. We recognize that all our work is possible thanks to the unconditional support of our members.

Fabiola Bawden represented El CENTRO with an acceptance speech where she recognized the honor of working with immigrant and working families "It has been an honor for us at El CENTRO to partner with Voices for Children in fights for increasing the minimum wage, advocating for fair workplace policies and opposing unjust immigration policies that tear our families and communities apart. This year NM Voices for Children made a unique decision at a critical moment in time to honor organizations supporting immigrants in New Mexico. We thank NM Voices for Children for this great honor and for the amazing work that they do on behalf of children and families in New Mexico, and we also congratulate Somos un Pueblo Unido."



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE ON PAID SICK LEAVE AND LABOR RIGHTS

WHEN: Friday July 28th at 6 PM
WHERE: 714 4th St SW 87102
DESCRIPTION: Join the Workers' Committee for an interactive presentation by Elizabeth Wagoner of the Center for Law and Poverty on labor rights and the Healthy Workforce campaign

WORKERS' RIGHTS ORIENTATIONS

WHEN: July 6th and 20th, August 3rd and 17th at 5:30 PM
WHERE: 714 4th St SW 87102
DESCRIPTION: Attend these free workshops if you think you've been a victim of wage theft and/or discrimination, and want to learn about your rights and options. Call in advance to reserve your spot, 505-247-1023

CIVIL RIGHTS WORKSHOPS

WHEN: Contact us to schedule and sign up for workshops
DESCRIPTION: Learn about your civil rights with ICE/police, how to do a family emergency plan and join the movement to fight back! Contact us at 505-246-1627 or sign up on line at www.elcentronm.org

LEGAL CONSULTATIONS WITH THE NM IMMIGRANT LAW CENTER

WHEN: Every Wednesday, 1 to 5 pm
WHERE: 714 4th St. SW 87102
DESCRIPTION: Do you need help applying for DACA, citizenship or obtaining a background check? Come on on Wednesdays to sign up for a free consultation with an immigration attorney.

NM IMMIGRANT LAW CENTER PHONE CONSULTATIONS

WHEN: Every Friday, 11 am to 1 pm
DESCRIPTION: Free legal consults! Call 505-247-1023

Check out our complete Know Your Rights with ICE and Law Enforcement Toolkit at our Website!



If you would like to make a donation to El CENTRO, send a check to El CENTRO de Igualdad y Derechos: 714 4th St SW Albuquerque, NM 87102. Or donate through PayPal:



On top of being a persevering and enthusiastic activist, Alicia is also a student and a volunteer with Encuentro NM. She used to work as a custodian for APS before she had to retire after suffering a major accident at work. El CENTRO helped her file and receive proper worker's compensation benefits. She she aspires to start her salsa making business soon. Members like Alicia are the backbone of El CENTRO who inspire us to work towards justice every day. Thank you, Alicia! La Lucha sigue!



If you would like to get involved or learn more about workers' rights, El CENTRO is recruiting new members for their employees' rights committee. Contact Marco Nuñez at mnunez\_@yahoo.com, Marian Mendez at mmendez\_elcentro@yahoo.com, Claudia Garcia at cigarcia\_elcentro@yahoo.com or call 505-246-1627.



El CENTRO Organizes to Strengthen APS Safe School Policies to Protect Our Students and Families

El CENTRO and allies have been working together with APS to keep our children safe by launching a campaign to inform families and students about current policies that El CENTRO helped pass that ensure that ICE cannot enter school property and that information about one's immigration status cannot be shared with federal agents. However, El CENTRO believes that in light of the Trump administration, current policies can be clarified and strengthened. Based on conversations and workshops with our members, we find that very few parents know about APS's Safe Haven policy. Many of our parents have not seen information distributed in schools that

explains that ICE cannot enter schools nor they have seen the school's family emergency plans. To have an environment that is conducive to learning is vital that both children and parents understand APS policies and that these policies adequately address the family's needs and concerns.

Moving forward, El CENTRO will continue to organize parents, students, educators, the teacher's union and allies to strengthen APS's safe haven/safe schools policies to ensure that all our children and parents feel safe at school.

Thanks for Participating in our Membership Meeting: Defending Our Labor Rights!

In our last membership meeting on June 20th, El CENTRO discussed with our members strategies to defend our minimum wage and our access to paid sick leave. Our members expressed their concerns and desires to strengthen current APS Safe Haven Policies and to educate teachers on how to ensure the safety and tranquility of our children. Active member Marian Cera makes a call to attend our meetings regularly "it is vital to participate in the membership meetings because this is part of our work in defending

and protecting our families. We must ensure that we are always receiving the latest updates on our rights and actions we take to protect them." That evening we counted with the participation of our youth interns for the Yes! Program 2017. At the end of our meeting, El Chapo de Sinaloa surprised us with a show! Our next membership meeting will be in August.



Tacos for Justice with Taquería México

El CENTRO's members and allies came together to share a meal on Tuesday, June 27th to show support for Taqueria Mexico, a business that has a track record of giving back to El CENTRO and the community. On Wednesday 21st of June, the owners of Taquería México were victims of vandalism for the sixth time this year. And although the most recent act of vandalism did not have racist overtones, much of the previous vandalism targeting the taquería and other immigrant-owned businesses did. There has been a recent uptick of racist vandalism against immigrant-owned businesses since President Trump was elected. Dalia Hernández, one of the owner's sister and staff member

El CENTRO, expressed her concern, "We are a hard working immigrant family. We will not let those who are targeting our business, define who we are as a business and as a community. We will continue to demonstrate, that in Albuquerque, we are at our best when we come together."

Francisco Hernández from Taqueria Mexico thanks the support of our community "we are tremendously grateful for the community coming out in support of our business today, more than ever." Thanks, all of you who participated!

