



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Jose M. Serrano

## Secure Communities Sign on Letter

JOSÉ M. SERRANO May 31, 2011

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May 9, 2011

Honorable Andrew Cuomo  
Governor of New York  
State Capitol  
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

Last week, the Governor of Illinois and the Illinois State Police took a critical step towards protecting the rights of their immigrant communities by terminating the state's Secure Communities (S-Comm) Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Through this action, no police in Illinois will share fingerprints with ICE—no new counties will be activated and counties that have S-Comm currently operating will be deactivated. We commend Illinois for taking this action.

Given New York's immigrant heritage and our leadership role in the nation, we firmly believe that our State, too, must immediately end this destructive program. Many of us have joined

dozens of organizations in New York over the past year in raising a wide range of concerns about S-Comm and calling for an end to our State's participation in the program. It is critical that New York now join Illinois to show that stopping S-Comm is both necessary and doable.

Like us, Illinois felt that there was no choice but to completely withdraw from S-Comm. In his letter to ICE, Governor Pat Quinn pointed to "the conflict between the stated purpose of Secure Communities and the implementation of the program." It could not be more clear that this program serves as a dragnet for ICE to meet its draconian deportation quotas. In Illinois, less than 20% of the people ICE deported due to S-Comm were convicted of a serious crime. ICE statistics for New York show that the vast majority (approximately 80 percent) of those detained by ICE because of S-Comm were never convicted of a crime. Even more importantly, S-Comm undermines the critical work we all have undertaken for so long to protect due process, end racial profiling, restore trust in the police, and stop unfair deportations.

Especially at a time of increasing recognition of the terrible problems posed by S-Comm, we cannot afford to continue to let our immigrants get dragged through ICE's deportation machinery. Just last week, U.S. Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren, joined by U.S. Senator Robert Menendez, put a spotlight on the problematic S-Comm program, calling for "thorough investigations [of ICE] into any misconduct, including possible violations of criminal law."

As a state that is proud of its tradition of upholding and protecting civil, immigrant, and human rights, we must stop S-Comm in New York. With 24 of our 62 counties already activated, we have no time to lose. We look forward to working with you to immediately

terminate our S-Comm MOA in order to truly make New York a state that protects the rights of all communities.

Sincerely,

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NYS Senate, 28th Dist.

Brian Kavanagh  
NYS Assembly, 74th Dist.

Guillermo Linares  
NYS Assembly, 72nd Dist.

Ruben Diaz  
NYS Senate, 32nd Dist.

Thomas Duane  
NYS Senate, 29th Dist.

Adriano Espaillat  
NYS Senate, 31st Dist.

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NYS Senate, 34th Dist.  
Dist.

Ruth Hassell-Thompson  
NYS Senate, 36th Dist.

Liz  
NYS Senate, 26th

Jose Peralta  
NYS Senate, 13th Dist.  
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Bill Perkins  
NYS Senate, 30th Dist.

Gustavo Rivera  
NYS Senate, 33rd

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NYS Assembly, 70th Dist.

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NYS Assembly, 92nd

Jeffrion L. Aubry  
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NYS Assembly, 35th Dist.  
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Carmen E. Arroyo

NYS Assembly, 84th Dist.

Alec Brook-

NYS Assembly, 46th

Karim Camara  
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NYS Assembly, 43 Dist.

Nelson L. Castro

NYS Assembly, 86th Dist.

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NYS Assembly, 85th Dist.

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NYS Assembly, 81st Dist.

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NYS Assembly, 66th Dist.

Richard N. Gottfried

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Vanessa Gibson  
Jacobs

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NYS Assembly, 77th Dist.

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NYS Assembly, 95th Dist.

NYS Assembly, 57th Dist.

NYS Assembly, 65th Dist.

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NYS Assembly, 39th Dist.  
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NYS Assembly, 69th Dist.

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NYS Assembly, 6th Dist.

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NYS Assembly, 118th Dist.

William Scarborough

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NYS Assembly, 16th Dist.

Eric

NYS Assembly, 79th Dist.

Matthew Titone

NYS Assembly, 61st Dist.

David Weprin

NYS Assembly, 24th Dist.