State legislators have introduced 5 anti-immigrant bills to the North Carolina General Assembly this year.

**HB 63: “Citizens Protection Act”**

House Bill 63 further criminalizes undocumented immigrants and harshens the penalties for cities who have any type of sanctuary policies, despite the anti-sanctuary bill HB 318 that was passed in 2015. This bill seeks to withhold certain tax revenues from local government who violate the ban on sanctuary cities.

The bill allows any individual who believes a local municipality is acting as a sanctuary city or not cooperating with immigration to file a complaint with the Attorney General’s office which must be investigated.

It also increases the penalties for those who manufacture and sell fake IDs. The bill differentiates between underage youth that use fake IDs for buying alcohol or cigarettes (lesser penalties) and adults that use false identifications for other purposes—like to obtain employment (felony charge).

Furthermore, HB 63 restricts the ability for undocumented immigrants to obtain bail. This raises serious constitutional questions.

**HB 35: “Protect North Carolina Worker’s Act” (E-Verify)**

House Bill 35 expands E-Verify to businesses with 5 employees or more (previously it was 25 or more) and would also include temporary employees. This proposal exempts farmworkers, independent contractors, and domestic workers.

**HB 113: Private Action Local Compliance/ Immigration Laws**

House Bill 113 would allow individuals to file suit in Superior Court if they believe a local government entity is not complying with federal immigration law. With this in effect, the jurisdiction, local law enforcement agency, or county could be issued a civil penalty of up to 10,000 dollars per day it fails to comply with the law.

**SB 188 “No Power Bill Funds/ Sanctuary Cities”**

Municipalities that violate state immigration laws prohibiting “sanctuary” ordinances, policies or procedures, will be ineligible to receive state funds for the building and maintenance of streets (known as Power Bill Funds).

**SB 145: “Government Immigration Compliance”**

Senate Bill 145 requires the Dept. of Public Safety to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with ICE to implement 287 (g) and train local officers to act as immigration officers.

The bill prohibits all government agencies— including law enforcement (this is new)—from using consular and community IDs.

The Attorney General would have to make a form available for people to file against a local government they believe is not complying and make it available for the public to view online. The Attorney General would then need to begin an investigation based off of that claim.

Moreover, it allows for private enforcement of immigration law by allowing someone to bring an action against an individual who they believe isn’t in compliance with immigration law to the Superior Court of Wake County.

SB 145 also penalizes and bans UNC system colleges from acting as sanctuary campuses.

All of these bills present dangerous consequences for our immigrant community. We will monitor their progress and disseminate information on how you can help in the future as we see whether they move forward through committees.

-Citlaly Mora, AFSC Intern

I tell you what freedom is to me; no fear.

-Nina Simone

Contact your Legislators to Oppose these Bills!

Visit [www.ncleg.net](http://www.ncleg.net), click on “Who Represents Me” in the upper right hand side. Type in your address in the small box above the map to find out who represents you.
Immigrant Parents Seek Support from Guilford School Board

In the past months, bullying in local schools has increased in response to the election of President Trump and the proliferation of anti-immigrant sentiments portrayed in the media. Now, local immigrant parents have had enough and are standing up publicly for their children, despite fear of drawing attention to their immigration status.

On Thursday, February 9th, four mothers of students at Guilford Elementary School attended a meeting of the Guilford County School Board and passionately expressed their concerns about their families’ situations under our new national leadership. They began by thanking the school board for passing a resolution the previous week to “[affirm] commitment to students and families of all national origins.”

They went on to say that, in these uncertain times, what they and their families need is a guarantee that local schools will remain safe places, not only for their children, but also for parents to meet after hours to be informed on matters such as legislation and executive orders that pertain to their safety and the safety of their children. AFSC organizer Andrew Willis Garces has been working with immigrant parents to hold regular meetings to discuss the recently issued Executive Orders and the climate in the schools.

In the school board meeting, the parents stressed the fact that they had come to the United States in order to provide a better future for their children and that their children’s safety has always been their top priority. Although the school board has yet to respond publicly, the parents’ emotional and touching appeals have not gone unnoticed. Their comments were covered by the Triad City Beat, which featured quotes from local teachers expressing their support of the parents.

-Milena Wuerth, AFSC Intern

HKONJ Moral March Brings Out Thousands

On Saturday, February 11th the 11th annual Moral March led by the NC NAACP, along with dozens of community partners, marched in downtown Raleigh for the many social issues that constituents feel are in peril under the legislature of both federal and state government. At an estimated 80,000 attendees, this was by far, the largest People’s Assembly to gather for the annual march. Attendees listened to community leaders speak on protecting healthcare, immigrant rights, voting rights, and equal rights for all. The American Friends Service Committee was proud to participate for the 11th straight year.

After an energizing march, members of the NC Immigrant Rights Alliance, of which AFSC is a lead organization, gathered in a mass meeting to discuss strategies to protect one another and how to work towards defeating any local anti-immigrant policies, ICE raids, and moving forward in moving sanctuary movements in North Carolina. As anti-immigrant bills are introduced into the NC General Assembly, groups will work to raise awareness and keep abreast of any policy changes that could be detrimental for immigrants.

-Citlaly Mora, AFSC Intern
(As of Feb. 28) The President has issued several recent Executive Orders and memorandums in relation to immigration. As of the beginning of March, we await a possible new Muslim ban to be announced, after the first one was struck down by the courts. In the meantime, we have compiled a brief synopsis of some of the immigration Executive Orders and the newly issued memoranda for the Department of Homeland Security, preparing us for possible mass deportations.

One Order cites transnational “drug and human trafficking networks” that “present danger to the interest of the United States.” It formally declares the process of building a wall along the Mexican border and gives the Secretary of Homeland Security the responsibility to begin the design and seek out funding for the barrier. Along with the building of the wall, the order details the building of more detention centers. “Catch and release” will no longer be in effect, so the detention centers will be detaining immigrants until their date of deportation. The process of determining whether a person has a claim to stay in the US will be sped up, as will deportations.

The Federal Government (including ICE) will work with state and local governments to fulfill these goals, but has not announced the details. Among both memos and orders, the President will add 5,000 Customs and Borders Protection agents and 10,000 more immigration officers. There has been speculation on how realistic this is and will take years to implement.

The Executive Orders restore the deportation program Secure Communities and encourages local governments to enter into 287(g) agreements, which deputizes local law enforcement agents to act as federal immigration officers. As of right now, Guilford County does not participate in 287(g), but if it becomes mandatory, that could change.

Unaccompanied children, mainly from Central America could be deported and may only be allowed for parole in “urgent humanitarian reasons” or “significant public benefit.” It goes as far as stating parents who facilitate illegal presence for their children could be charged.

It is important to note that some of these orders that need funding will have to wait for the approval of Congress to commence. The YWCA Latino Family Center, along with AFSC hosted another “Know Your Rights” workshop that focused on the details of the new orders and the expansion of the priorities of removal when it comes to deportation that now includes anyone who has committed a minor crime or suspected of one, is deemed a national security threat, or found to have abused a public benefits program. More concerning is that under these orders immigrants could technically be charged with entering the country illegally, therefore making anyone a priority and allow the grounds for their deportation.

As of right now, the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program (DACA) is still in place, although cases of DACA immigrants being detained have occurred. Despite the Executive Orders, AFSC will continue to advocate for local policies that will protect immigrants and will continue to educate the community on changes happening federally and locally.

-Citlaly Mora, AFSC Intern

GREENSBORO CITY COUNCIL PUSHES FOR TUITION EQUITY

On Tuesday, March 7, the Greensboro City Council approved its 2017 legislative agenda, which included support of tuition equity for undocumented students. Compelled by the stories of students like Saul, member of Let’s Learn Triad (which AFSC helped to found). City Council had discussed supporting tuition equity last session but was hesitant because of the opposition they met by some state legislators.

Many Latinx students attended the Evento Familiar this month at UNCG, an event sponsored by the Latino Community Coalition of Guilford County, to get resources for higher education. High school Latinx students showed enthusiasm as they learned about college and resources that could assist them in pursuing an education and improve their future endeavors. We applaud the City Council’s decision to continue to support our students like Saul, who are looking for opportunities to continue their education and make college accessible for them, and thousands of other students in our city, state, and country.

-Citlaly Mora, AFSC Intern
DAY WITHOUT IMMIGRANTS TAKES PLACE IN NORTH CAROLINA

The past few weeks under the new Trump Administration have wreaked havoc in many communities around the country. As government officials have threatened to undermine the rights of targeted groups and promised to enforce a harsher immigration law, immigrants in the community have sought ways to resist separation of their families and work towards a community without fear of retaliation or deportation. In reaction to the anti-immigrant sentiment expressed by the administration, immigrant communities around North Carolina and nationwide staged a “Day Without Immigrants” Protest.

On February 16th, thousands of immigrants went on strike and missed work, school, and refrained from spending money in stores and businesses that day. In the North Carolina, dozens of businesses closed and Guilford County saw their classrooms short of students. Hundreds gathered in Raleigh, Charlotte, and in downtown Greensboro to rally.

Immigrants met at the Worker Justice Center in Greensboro and marched downtown, stopping at the International Civil Rights Museum. Community members spoke about their experiences, their struggles and encouraged immigrants to stay involved and resist future policies that may be introduced locally and federally.

This was one of many activities that immigrants are leading as they unite within their communities to find solutions and ways to resist attacks that are feared to come and under the plans of mass deportation that are already underway. More importantly, movements like these demonstrate in a very real way how critical immigrants are in our businesses and the power they hold in our community. At the end of the day immigrant rights are human rights., and that is something we will continue to help in making visible.

-Citlaly Mora, AFSC Intern

MEET OUR NEWEST INTERNS!

Milena Wuerth is an intern at the AFSC Office in Greensboro, NC. She is currently on a gap year, the first half of which she spent working in a Welcome Class for refugee children in Berlin. She has experience working with immigrant and refugee communities in Chapel Hill, NC and lead a club called Refugee Outreach at her high school. She is a member of the Chapel Hill Friends Meeting.

Michelle Harris is a senior at Guilford College, double-majoring in Peace & Conflict Studies and Community & Justice Studies. Michelle works with Every Campus a Refuge. She helped to develop a Peer Mediation program at a local elementary school. She is the founder of Trafficked Lives, a non-profit organization focused on human trafficking. After graduation, Michelle hopes to work with NGOs addressing issues surrounding immigrants and refugees, forced migration, and human trafficking.

Emily Haaksma grew up in Asheville, NC and is currently a fourth year at Guilford College. She is an English major and with double minors in Theatre and Religious Studies. She loves Shakespeare, yoga, and the mountains, and she is looking forward to the opportunity for archival work in AFSC Centennial Project.