

An Open Letter of Concern To Governor Bill Ritter About the Secure Communities Program

Governor Bill Ritter
136 State Capitol
Denver, CO 80203-1792
SENT VIA FACSIMILE 303-866-2003

CC: John Hickenlooper

Dear Governor Ritter:

We are writing to you as concerned community members, human rights advocates, journalists, clergy, authors, political activists, labor union leaders, and educators who are committed to raising standards, and building strong communities in Colorado. We believe that our civil liberties and protecting the rights of all people are the backbone of not only our state but our country as a whole. Many of us have been a part of community, student, faith, and labor coalitions because we support organizing and fighting for ALL people in our community.

We are writing to express our deep concerns about the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency's Secure Communities Program and its potential negative impact on civil liberties and public safety. We strongly urge you to take immediate action and reverse the executive order before any Colorado state agency is permitted to participate in the Secure Communities Program.

We will not tolerate legislation which incentivizes racial profiling, condones authoritarianism, and potentially divides our communities.

Allowing the implementation of the Secure Communities Program would send a very troubling message and be viewed, by many, as a sign that state democracy and human rights are not valued or tolerated within Colorado. In our view, this would have negative consequences for the families directly affected, the state of Colorado itself, and the United States as a whole. We strongly urge you to avoid such a tragedy.

Sincerely,