



Immigrant Justice

Prevent state contractors from helping deport immigrants

[AB 1282 \(Kalra\): Immigration Enforcement – Private Transportation](#)

Background

Over the past few years, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has come to rely on privately contracted security guards to arrest, detain, and manage imprisonment of immigrants throughout the state. ICE primarily contracts with G4S Wackenhut, which is the largest private security contractor in the world. This use of contractors violates the federal Immigration and Nationality Act, which only authorizes federal law enforcement officers to execute arrest warrants. Neither federal nor state law permit private security contractors to enforce federal immigration law.

Legislative Summary

AB 1282 (Kalra) prohibits the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) from facilitating or allowing private security contractors to detain, arrest, take custody of, interrogate, or transport individuals for immigration enforcement purposes. The bill also codifies existing policy prohibiting CDCR from holding individuals in custody beyond their release date; this delay oftentimes allows ICE extra time to arrest the individuals. Furthermore, the bill codifies existing regulations prohibiting transfer of individuals in CDCR custody within 90 days prior to their release. Finally, the bill prohibits CDCR parole agents from coordinating with private security contractors to organize arrests during parole check ins.

Jewish Values

Welcoming the immigrant is a core part of Jewish tradition. In at least 36 different ways, the Torah instructs us to love the stranger, or immigrant. The Torah states, “when a stranger resides with you in your land, you shall not wrong them. The stranger who resides with you shall be to you as one of your citizens; you shall love them as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt” (Leviticus 19:33-3). We also recall our families’ own stories of migration; many of our ancestors came to North America seeking safety and freedom from persecution. The Torah teaches, “There shall be one law for the citizen and for the immigrant who dwells among you” (Exodus 12:49). We have an obligation to advocate for a state that welcomes immigrants and prohibits state contractors from aiding deportations.



The Religious Action Center pursues social justice and religious liberty by mobilizing the Reform Jewish community and serving as its advocate in Washington, D.C. The Center is led by the Commission on Social Action of the Central Conference of American Rabbis and the Union for Reform Judaism (and its affiliates) and is supported by the congregations of the Union.





Legislative Progress as of August 11, 2019

AB-1282 has passed the Assembly and the Senate Public Safety Committee. It is before the Senate Appropriations Committee.