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Asian Americans Advancing Justice |  
AAJC

President and CEO

Maya Wiley

January 21, 2025

## Oppose S. 5, the Laken Riley Act

Dear Member of Congress:

On behalf of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, a coalition charged by its diverse membership of more than 240 national organizations to promote and protect the civil and human rights of all persons in the United States, and the 93 undersigned national organizations, we urge you to oppose S. 5, the Laken Riley Act. The senselessness of the murder of Laken Riley does not justify making unprecedented changes to immigration detention laws that – like all mandatory incarceration provisions – will only result in more discrimination while doing little to increase public safety.

As we reflect on the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Congress's consideration of S. 5, as amended in the Senate, stands in stark contrast to Dr. King's dream of justice, equality, and liberation for all people, including immigrants, who seek freedom from oppression. Dr. King's teachings remind us "that we are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny" and that "anyone who lives inside the United States can never be considered an outsider." His words are a charge to Members of Congress to act with moral clarity in moments of consequence such as these and to base your vote in people over power and policy over politics.

S. 5 would require the mandatory detention – without any possibility of bond – of undocumented persons who are merely *arrested for or charged with* certain offenses, including misdemeanor shoplifting. It does not require conviction. There is no statute of limitations, and the bill does not specify any process by which a person might contest either their immigration detention or the underlying criminal charges (if charges are even pursued). Mandatory immigration detention on the basis of a mere arrest is unprecedented, and it would invite abuses that almost certainly would disproportionately impact people of color.

We are also concerned with language in the bill that would give states standing to sue the federal government over any allegation that the federal government is improperly implementing immigration laws, such as detention and removal provisions, visa provisions, or its discretionary parole authority. This language would open the floodgates to litigation, and it would enable individual states to shape federal immigration policies.

We urge you to vote against S. 5. **The Leadership Conference intends to include your position on S. 5 in our voting record for the 119<sup>th</sup> Congress.** If you have any questions, please contact Senior Counsel Rob Randhava at [randhava@civilrights.org](mailto:randhava@civilrights.org).

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Sincerely,

The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights

Advancement Project  
Advocates for Trans Equality  
African American Policy Forum  
American Association of People with Disabilities  
Arab American Institute  
Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum  
Asian American Psychological Association (AAPA)  
Asian Americans Advancing Justice - AAJC  
Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance - AFL-CIO (APALA)  
Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations (AAPCHO)  
Autistic Self Advocacy Network  
Bend the Arc: Jewish Action  
Bridges Faith Initiative  
Center for Constitutional Rights  
Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)  
Center for Public Representation  
Center for Responsible Lending  
Clearinghouse on Women's Issues  
Coalition of Black Trade Unionists  
Coalition on Human Needs  
Common Cause  
Community Change Action  
Defending Rights & Dissent  
Demos  
Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund (DREDF)  
Drug Policy Alliance  
Empowering Pacific Islander Communities  
Equal Rights Advocates  
ERA Coalition  
Feminist Majority Foundation  
Hispanic Federation  
Immigrant Legal Resource Center  
Indivisible  
Japanese American Citizens League  
Jewish Council for Public Affairs  
Just Solutions  
Justice for Migrant Women  
Justice in Aging

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Juvenile Law Center  
Labor Council for Latin American Advancement  
LatinoJustice PRLDEF  
Lawyers for Good Government  
League of United Latin American Citizens  
League of Women Voters of the United States  
MALDEF (Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund)  
Muslim Advocates  
NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. (LDF)  
NALCAB - National Association for Latino Community Asset Builders  
Nathaniel R. Jones Foundation  
National Asian American Pacific Islander Mental Health Association  
National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA)  
National Asian Pacific American Families Allied for Substance Awareness and Harm Reduction  
National Association of Social Workers  
National CAPACD  
National Center for Parent Leadership, Advocacy, and Community Empowerment (National PLACE)  
National Coalition for the Homeless  
National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA)  
National Council of Churches  
National Council of Jewish Women  
National Education Association  
National Employment Law Project  
National Health Law Program  
National Immigration Law Center  
National Immigration Project  
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Justice  
National Network for Arab American Communities  
National Organization for Women  
National Partnership for Women and Families  
National Women's Law Center  
NBJC  
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice  
People For the American Way  
PFLAG National  
Public Citizen  
Reclaim Our Democracy  
Reproaction  
Reproductive Freedom for All  
Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights  
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)  
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC)  
Southern Poverty Law Center

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Take Back Christianity

The Advocates for Human Rights

The Sikh Coalition

T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights

Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice

United Church of Christ

United Steelworkers

Voices for Progress

Voters of Tomorrow

Voto Latino

Western States Center

YWCA USA