



Officers
Chair
Judith L. Lichtman
National Partnership for
Women & Families
Vice Chairs
Jacqueline Pata
National Congress of American Indians
Thomas A. Saenz
Mexican American Legal
Defense and Educational Fund
Hilary Shelton
NAACP
Secretary
Jo Ann Jenkins
AARP
Treasurer
Lee A. Saunders
American Federation of State,
County & Municipal Employees
Board of Directors
Helena Berger
American Association of
People with Disabilities
Kimberly Churches
AAUW
Kristen Clarke
Lawyers' Committee for
Civil Rights Under Law
Lily Eskelsen Garcia
National Education Association
Fatima Goss Graves
National Women's Law Center
Chad Griffin
Human Rights Campaign
Wylecia Wiggs Harris
League of Women Voters of the
United States
Mary Kay Henry
Service Employees International Union
Sherrilyn Ifill
NAACP Legal Defense and
Educational Fund, Inc.
David H. Inoue
Japanese American Citizens League
Derrick Johnson
NAACP
Michael B. Keegan
People for the American Way
Samer E. Khalaf
American-Arab
Anti-Discrimination Committee
Marc Morial
National Urban League
Janet Murguía
UnidosUS
Debra L. Ness
National Partnership for
Women & Families
Terry O'Neill
National Organization for Women
Rabbi Jonah Pesner
Religious Action Center
Of Reform Judaism
Anthony Romero
American Civil Liberties Union
Shanna Smith
National Fair Housing Alliance
Richard L. Trumka
AFL-CIO
Randi Weingarten
American Federation of Teachers
Dennis Williams
International Union, UAW
John C. Yang
Asian Americans Advancing Justice
AAJC
**Policy and Enforcement
Committee Chair**
Michael Lieberman
Anti-Defamation League
President & CEO
Vanita Gupta

July 27, 2017

Oppose Rule to Provide Border Wall Funding

Dear Representative:

On behalf of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, a coalition of more than 200 national advocacy organizations, I am writing to urge you to oppose the rule providing for further consideration of H.R. 3219, the Make America Secure Appropriations Act of 2018. The rule being considered today includes a self-executing provision to add to the bill \$1.6 billion in funding for wall construction at the southwest border. This provision is wasteful, unnecessary, would raise humanitarian and environmental concerns, and would make it more difficult to fix our broken immigration system.

While running for President, then-candidate Trump promised that Mexico would pay for a border wall. The American people now know that this is not true. Instead, Congress will be held to account if American taxpayer money is wasted on this construction. At a time when border apprehensions have hit historic lows over the past two decades, new border wall construction would put immigrant lives at greater risk, increase the risk of human trafficking, and disrupt the lives of border communities. At the same time, it would divert finite resources away from disaster relief, Coast Guard funding, and other programs that do promote national security.

Moreover, by depriving members of a separate up-or-down vote on this troubling provision, the rule amounts to an undemocratic end run around the lawmaking process. Representatives should not be forced to choose between voting on this unnecessary, wasteful provision and voting to fund other, less controversial national security funding.

For these reasons, I urge you to vote against the rule providing for further consideration of H.R. 3219. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Rob Randhava, Senior Counsel, at (202) 466-6058.

Sincerely,

Vanita Gupta
President & CEO