

June 16, 2025

Honorable Josh Stein
State of North Carolina Governor
20301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-0301

Esteemed Governor Stein,

We, the undersigned, serve North Carolina as elected leaders and public servants in our respective communities and represent over a dozen cities and municipalities across our state and millions of North Carolinian constituents.

Though we differ in origin to this great state, we are bound by our Latino identity and our commitment to serving North Carolinians from all walks of life with integrity, transparency, and compassion.

We write to urge you to veto SB 153, and HB 318, two bills that will criminalize our neighbors, misuse and abuse our state resources in service of advancing chaos and further dividing our communities.

In just eight years, we have gone from having five Latino elected officials to now being just shy of thirty! Our representation in the political arena will continue to increase in the years to come, not only in number but in communities across North Carolina. It is a privilege to serve our communities and we do not take our responsibilities lightly.

Many of us serve at the local level and these bills will be especially punitive against local governments that fail to comply with anti-sanctuary ordinances. As local elected officials our duty is to safeguard the resources of our communities, complying with these bills would be in direct conflict to that duty.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge you to stand with us — and with the values of dignity, equity, and common sense — by vetoing SB 153 and HB 318. We remain committed to building a North Carolina where all residents, regardless of immigration status, are treated with humanity and fairness.

Thank you for your leadership and your consideration.

Sincerely,

Eliazar Posada-Orozco
Council Member, Town of Carrboro

Javiera Caballero
Council Member, City of Durham

Emily Chávez
Board of Education Member, Durham Public
Schools

Mario Benavente
Council Member, City of Fayetteville

Wendy Padilla
Board of Education Member, Orange
County Public Schools

Cristóbal Palmer
Council Member, Town of Carrboro

Guillermo Antonio Nurse
Mayor, City of Oxford

Pepi Acebo
Board of Education Member, Asheville City
Schools

Francisco Rivas-Diaz
Mayor Pro-Tem, Town of Wallace

Ed Sosa
Council Member, Town of Butner

Carlos Velez
Commissioner, Town of Oxford

Elizabeth Monterrey
Board of Education Member,
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools

Susan Rodriguez-McDowell
Commissioner, Mecklenburg County

Franklin Gomez Flores
Commissioner, Chatham County

Roberto Bo Hess
Council Member, City of Asheville