

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 26, 2015

Governor Jay Nixon
P.O Box 720
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Attorney General Chris Koster
P.O. Box 899
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Dear Governor Nixon and Attorney General Koster:

We write today to urge you both to use the authority of your respective offices to join the lawsuit brought by the State of Texas and 25 other states against the President for his unconstitutional executive actions on immigration (*State of Texas, et al v. United States of America, et al*). The president's actions were never authorized by law and will cause immense damages to the State of Missouri and its citizens. Therefore, as state officials, you have the responsibility to seek redress from the president's actions through litigation.

The president's executive actions issued on November 20, 2014, would provide temporary deferral of deportation to nearly 4 million undocumented immigrants while also conferring upon them additional benefits including authorization to work. By providing temporary legal status without congressional authorization, the president is causing a constitutional crisis that threatens to upend the separation of powers and the rule of law. If these powers are not checked it will further embolden this president, and any future president, to act unilaterally without congressional approval. The violation of states' rights through such actions should be of paramount concern to the State of Missouri.

Allowing those who came to this country illegally to jump the line is an insult to all of the immigrants in Missouri who have followed the law in seeking legal status or permanent residency. Moreover, the work authorization provided to undocumented immigrants will put them in direct competition for jobs with working class Missourians. This influx of labor could place a downward force on wages and reduce the provision of available jobs in a state that already has an unacceptably high unemployment rate of 5.5 percent (Missouri Department of Labor, Jan. 2015).

Overall, these actions could increase the number of undocumented immigrants in Missouri by providing an even greater incentive for future illegal immigration. Increasing the number of undocumented immigrants will require the state to expend a substantial amount of resources on education, law enforcement, and health care. We are also concerned that an increase in illegal immigration will result in public safety threats such as an increase in human trafficking, which you have both previously committed to combatting throughout the state.

We share a responsibility to uphold the Constitution of the United States and a duty to represent law-abiding Missouri citizens. Failing to take action to stop these harmful orders is a dereliction of those duties which is why we urge you to join the suit against the president for his unconstitutional executive actions.

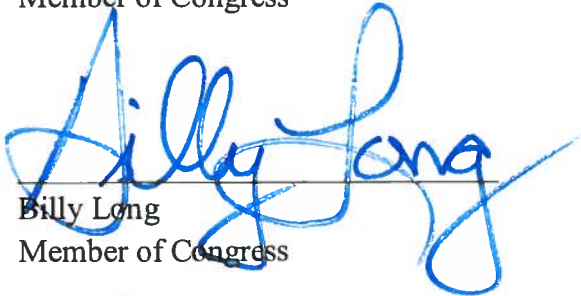
Sincerely,



Sam Graves
Member of Congress



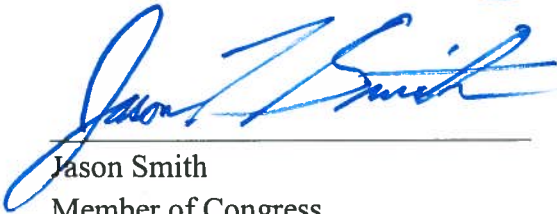
Vicky Hartzler
Member of Congress



Billy Long
Member of Congress



Blaine Luetkemeyer
Member of Congress



Jason Smith
Member of Congress



Ann Wagner
Member of Congress