

The Network of Texas IAF Organizations

<i>COPS/Metro San Antonio</i>	Press Conference on SB4 February 2, 2017
<i>TMO/GCLC Houston</i>	I'm John Elford, senior pastor of University United Methodist Church, speaking on behalf of Austin Interfaith and the Network of Texas IAF Organizations.
<i>Valley Interfaith, Rio Grande Valley</i>	The witness of the Abrahamic faiths is clear and unequivocal - love for neighbor – not just the literal person next door, but love, care and protection especially for the most vulnerable among us. Love for the stranger and for refugees is mentioned 33 times in the Hebrew Bible. And it's a command not a suggestion – to love all of our neighbors and stand with those on the margins and it's what informs our opposition to Senate Bill 4.
<i>EPISO & Border Interfaith, El Paso</i>	As congregations and institutions of the Texas Industrial Areas Foundation Network, we have long called for immigration reform and a path to citizenship or legal status for immigrants.
<i>Austin Interfaith</i>	
<i>ACT, Fort Worth</i>	We have also worked for years to develop relationships with our local law enforcement to strengthen public safety for our community. Senate Bill 4 requires local law enforcement to administer federal immigration laws beyond what federal law requires, as if their job of maintaining public order and safety weren't challenging enough as it is.
<i>Dallas Area Interfaith</i>	
<i>The West Texas Organizing Strategy</i>	There's no question that the bill will undermine public safety and the well-being of the community. It's difficult to fathom how this is not evident to the leaders of our state." SB4 will make it more difficult for officers to do their jobs. Community policing, which is one of our goals in Austin, will become more and more difficult. People afraid that police will check their immigration status will stop reporting crimes that they witness, or they won't report crimes if they are the victim.
<i>The Border Organization, Del Rio/Eagle Pass</i>	And denying state funding to our cities and counties? In the words of Travis County Sheriff Sally Hernandez, that's simply "retribution" and it punishes everyone in our communities.
	My hope and prayer is that our state leaders will reject laws like SB4 that do harm and focus on legislation that strengthens our communities, that increases public safety, that nurtures public trust in law enforcement and that has the well-being of everyone at its heart. Thank you.