



WHAT IS SECURE COMMUNITIES (S-Comm)?

- S-Comm is a federal immigration enforcement program that requires local law enforcement agencies to check the fingerprint data of all arrestees against the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) database.
- If law enforcement authorities detect a fingerprint match of some kind (whether correct or not) that individual will likely be subject to immigration detention, potentially hundreds of miles from home.
- The Obama administration maintains that S-Comm only targets dangerous criminals, but according to ICE data, the vast majority of people deported under the program had no criminal records or had been picked up for low-level offenses, like traffic violations.
- In May 2010, New York State quietly entered into an agreement with the federal government regarding S-Comm with the understanding that local jurisdictions could decide for themselves whether to participate in the program, but the Obama administration later stated that participation is mandatory.

NEW YORK MUST REJECT S-COMM

Governor Cuomo should immediately rescind New York State's agreement to participate in S-Comm. This misguided program threatens basic civil rights and makes our communities less safe. It contradicts our state's proud tradition of embracing immigrants and it ignores immigrants' immeasurable contributions to New York's economy, culture and heritage.

S-COMM MAKES OUR COMMUNITIES LESS SAFE

When local police enforce federal immigration law, they are diverted from pursuing violent crimes and lose community trust. Immigrant communities, including legal residents, will shy away from cooperating with law enforcement for fear of being detained or deported. As a result, crimes go unreported and witnesses refuse to come forward.

S-COMM INVITES RACIAL PROFILING

Law enforcement agents may target people who look or sound "foreign" for minor offenses, like traffic stops, as a pretext to check immigration status. Racial profiling like this is contrary to American ideals of fairness and equality before the law.

S-COMM UNFAIRLY BURDENS TAXPAYERS

Taxpayers will pay for the extra time arrestees spend in jail waiting for immigration checks. Also, local jurisdictions will not be reimbursed by the federal government if they're sued for illegal S-Comm detentions.