

UAW Local 737
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The UAW Local 737 Urges Governor of Tennessee to Veto State Bill Expanding Policing of Immigrant Workers

The UAW Local 737 calls upon the Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam to veto a bill that allows police to act as Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents, increasing racial profiling of all people of color at worksites and eroding the rights of all working families in our state.

Nashville, TN – I, Benny Overton, am speaking on behalf of the UAW Local 737 which is an amalgamated union representing workers at Carlex Glass, Carlite Warehouse and Fisk University. We stand in solidarity with local labor groups and the community as we fervently urge Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam (TN-R) to veto House Bill 2315.

This bill, by granting to the various law enforcement agencies within the state the power to profile and detain for deportation any person, circumvents or undermines the current constitutional requirement to first obtain a judicial warrant of ICE. Therefore, we believe this bill will create an environment of fear that unscrupulous employers will abuse to exploit workers and effectively deny the workers' rights to collectively bargain or organize into a union. Unscrupulous employers could create retaliatory and hostile work environments for workers (regardless of status) by targeting for profiling and detention those who exercise their legally protected and concerted rights as workers.

Governor Haslam has until May 22 to veto HB 2315 before it becomes law. We urge the Governor to show great leadership and stand on the right side of history by vetoing this bill.

"In a democracy, the primary and basic power of the people is derived from our ability to stand together and unite our voices for our common good – in the community as well as in the workplace. This bill would erode that power and is therefore a threat to workers and the community, a threat we must oppose." – Benny Overton, President UAW Local 737.