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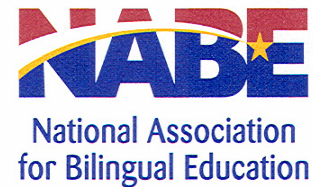
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October 4, 2011

Honorable Robert Bentley  
Governor of the State  
Alabama State Capitol  
600 Dexter Avenue  
Montgomery, AL 36130

Dear Governor Bentley:

The National Association for Bilingual Education (NABE) is a national organization based in Silver Springs, MD. The organization is represented by 20 state affiliates of over 3,000 Bilingual Education teachers and administrators. For the past 41 years, NABE has been committed to excellence in bilingualism and biliteracy education for all students through enriched educational programs, professional and leadership development for teachers, administrators, professors, policy makers and parents. Our mission is to advocate and cultivate a multilingual society promoting policy, pedagogy and research that validates and respects cultural and linguistic diversity that ensures an equitable educational opportunity for all students. NABE is committed to promoting programs and agendas that prepare our nation's students to be fluently bilingual, technologically creative, globally competitive and well-rounded world citizens.

The Executive Board and the membership was very dismayed to have learned of your very strong and strident "anti-immigrant" position in support of Judge Blackburn's ruling that upheld most sections of the Alabama's new immigration law. In addition, we find that your insensitivity to the demographic reality of your state, as evidenced by the 2010 National Census, to be very outlandish and lacking in any measure of sensitivity, compassion or respect or decency towards the immigrant families and children who contribute so much to the betterment of the State of Alabama.

NABE is particularly disheartened by the recent press reports in your state dealing with the alarming exodus of immigrant children from your public schools. The report indicates that these children and families are very frightened and terrified of the potential retribution or harm they may encounter by your new "anti-immigrant" law if they are caught attending schools. NABE is very concerned about this situation, and finds that this crisis among your state's children and families to be very appalling. At best, your recent comments to the press stating that "today is a victory for Alabama," is unconscionable and may possibly constitute an infringement upon the rights of your public school students to have free and open access to their local public schools.

The National Association for Bilingual Education is ready to work with your education department to develop appropriate Bilingual Education, Biliteracy and multicultural professional development and leadership training programs that will build a better appreciation and a healthy states relationship between your constituents and their bilingual and immigrant citizens of the state of Alabama. If America is to sustain a strong economic and global competitive advantage on the world stage, it is imperative to take advantage of the rich and diverse linguistic, cultural and academic talents among your immigrant population. Only then will the state of Alabama be able to out compete, out educate and outperform the rest of the world and successfully meet the global challenges of our world.

Best Regard

Dr. Rossana Ramirez Boyd, President

Santiago Wood, Ed. D., Executive Director

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