



# MALDEF

Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund

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## **Shuler-Tancredo "SAVE Act": Bad Immigration Policy and Bad Politics**

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MALDEF opposes the Secure America through Verification and Enforcement Act ("SAVE Act"), H.R. 4088, because it puts Americans in danger of:

- **Losing our jobs:** H.R. 4088 would force all U.S. employers to participate in a deeply flawed employment verification system (E-Verify):
  - 4.1 % of all workers and 10% of naturalized citizens would be in danger of being fired because of database errors;
  - Most of these errors would affect U.S. citizens.
- **Racial Profiling and Barriers to Effective Local Community Policing:** H.R. 4088 opens the floodgates for local police enforcement of federal immigration laws:
  - Leads to increased racial profiling by targeting "foreign-looking" Americans;
  - Creates barriers between law enforcement and local residents;
  - Makes communities less safe by impeding free communication between local residents and police.
- **Increased Anti-immigrant Vigilantism:** H.R. 4088 rewards anti-immigrant vigilantes
  - Provides financial incentives of up to \$100,000 to bounty hunters who report individuals who are suspected of assisting undocumented immigrants;
  - Could potentially include humanitarian and religious workers.
- **Living in a Military State:** H.R. 4088 would militarize our borders, national parks, and national forests:
  - Calls for an increase of nearly 10,000 border patrol and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents;
  - Recruits current and former members of the armed forces to serve as immigration agents;
  - Military forces trained to do battle in war zones are ill-suited to enforcing civil law within U.S. borders:
    - Ezekiel Hernandez, Jr., an 18-year-old high school student, was shot and killed while he was tending his herd of goats in Radford, Texas by a team of United States Marines;
    - Marines, operating under the authority of the Border Patrol, shot the boy with an M-16 in the chest, for carrying a 22 rifle to protect himself from thieves, wild dogs, and rattlesnakes. See [http://commdocs.house.gov/committees/judiciary/hju58801.000/hju58801\\_0.HTM](http://commdocs.house.gov/committees/judiciary/hju58801.000/hju58801_0.HTM)
- **Political Turmoil** at a time when the Latino vote is at a premium:
  - Latinos are the fast growing voting block in this country;
  - Latino voters are engaged in the political process and are mobilizing to vote nationwide at unprecedented levels;
  - The three remaining presidential candidates have historically supported and favored comprehensive immigration reform;
  - Strong anti-immigrant rhetoric is felt by Latinos as anti-Latino sentiment;
  - The parties who embrace anti-immigrant policies are embracing bad politics and hurting their own electoral prospects in 2008 and the future.