



AMERICAN GATEWAYS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

February 2024

From the Desk of Edna Yang, Co-Executive Director

During Black History Month, we at American Gateways want to recognize the Black immigrants we serve, their diversity, and their significant impact in our communities. Our clients come from Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Honduras, Haiti, and many other countries. The stories and experiences of Black immigrants are part of the American story, and we hope to celebrate them not only this month, but all year long. Diversity is what makes our communities unique. It helps us all to grow and thrive.

To protect our diverse communities, we have joined with partners to stop a discriminatory Texas state law from going into effect on March 5, 2024. We are part of a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of Texas Senate Bill 4 (SB4), a law that would give new powers to local officials to deport migrants and strip them of their right to apply for protection under our federal immigration laws.

Yesterday, the United States District Court for the Western District of Texas heard arguments regarding a motion for a preliminary injunction to block [Texas Senate Bill 4 \(88-4\)](#), which, if allowed to take effect, would permit local and state law enforcement to arrest, detain, and remove people they suspect to have entered Texas from another country without federal authorization.

SB 4 seeks to divide our communities and will have a lasting negative impact. It is a law based on xenophobia and racism and it does not make our communities safer, nor does it offer any real solutions to our broken immigration system. Every day, American Gateways works with immigrant survivors of domestic violence and abuse. We work with people who have been exploited, traumatized, and hurt – physically and emotionally. We accompany them and help them navigate the intricacies of our country's immigration laws, and find

opportunities for safety, stability, and hope. S.B. 4 will crush all of that work.

American Gateways has joined this lawsuit because we want to see all our communities thrive. Local officials do not have the training, guidance, or capacity to act as immigration agents and asking them to do so will only increase confusion and fear in our state. We are committed to supporting all Texas communities and ensuring that all of our neighbors are able to thrive and live without fear.

While we look to the courts to stop this injustice, we must affirm the work of welcoming people from all over the world who come seeking honest work and safety for their families. And we must commit to supporting the great diversity of all Texans so that we and our neighbors can find safety, prosperity, and community together. A better Texas and world is possible and will be ours as we overcome obstacles like SB 4.

We will be here, as we have been for nearly 40 years – advocating for immigrants and their families. Thank you for your continued support, and we will keep you updated on ways you can be involved.

Donate Today

Staff Anniversaries

Join us in celebrating our staff in their work anniversaries!

[Laura Flores-Dixit](#), Senior Staff Attorney - 4 years

[Annabel Canchola Watson](#), Staff Attorney - 5 years



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