



## Do Not Rent Laws

- Recently, several small towns have enacted local laws that make it illegal to rent to undocumented immigrants and, in some cases, to do business with or hire them.
- Such laws present a number of challenges to local housing systems and endanger the civil rights of the towns' residents.
- Local landlords are not immigration enforcement agents. They are not qualified to determine the validity of a resident's documentation.
- NCLR is concerned that in an attempt to comply with the new laws, landlords will violate many of their tenants' right to fair housing.
- The Fair Housing Act prohibits discrimination based on race, ethnicity, national origin, and family status (among other classifications). Do Not Rent laws create an excuse for landlords and others to profile families. Not only is this unethical, it is illegal.
- Fair housing and other civil rights laws apply to all America's residents. Excluding undocumented persons from their protection opens the entire community to discrimination. Latinos and immigrants are often stereotyped as being undocumented, regardless of their actual status.
- Moreover, the selective applicability of civil rights laws will become a source of intimidation, discouraging legal residents from reporting instances of discrimination.
- In fact, Latinos are already less likely than other protected classes to report housing discrimination. Do Not Rent laws erode the work of fair housing organizations to educate Latinos and encourage them to report discrimination.