



TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GENE WU

STATE REPRESENTATIVE · DISTRICT 137

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 26, 2023

Contact: Paige Dodge, 512-463-0492

Wu Statement on Senate Passage of SB 147

AUSTIN, TX – On Wednesday, April 26, the Texas Senate passed Senate Bill 147, by a vote of 18 to 12. Following the bill's passage, Representative Gene Wu (D-Houston) issued the following statement:

"I am frustrated by the Senate's passage of SB 147 in its current form. Despite continuous assurances that the provisions that discriminate against an entire immigrant class would be removed, the most problematic issue in this bill still remains," said Wu. "The main concern, that we have stated from the very beginning, is the bill's attack on "individuals" without any suspicion or proof that the individual is a government actor or an agent of a government. Even with the amendments offered, this legislation still takes away the rights of an entire class of people without due process and solely on the basis of their national origin. Under this legislation, the only evidence needed to deny a person their basic civil rights is where they are from. Less discrimination is *still* discrimination.

National security is a serious issue, but if we are concerned about the actions of foreign governments, then legislation should only affect foreign governments and their agents," Wu continued. "Labeling every person from a nation as an agent of that government is not only unjust, but is also counterintuitive given the number of asylum-seekers and refugees that our nation welcomes from those same counties. This proposed law would tell lawful immigrants, who were invited by our nation to come study, work, and create jobs, that they are no longer welcome in our state.

Our community will continue to work, in the Texas House, to eliminate the unnecessarily discriminatory aspects of this bill."

###