FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 1, 2014

Contact: Manar Waheed
(301) 270-1855
manar@saalt.org

SAALT Opposes Two Un-American Bills in the House of Representatives

After One Year of Irresponsible Inaction, House Attempts to Deny Immigrant Children Basic Rights

Any moment now, Congress may vote on two bills that threaten the rights of children who are aspiring American citizens. H.R. 5230 would undo long-time Congressional safeguards, including due process, that protect children fleeing trafficking, persecution, or violence in their countries of origin. This bill would also shortchange funding and services critical to addressing the humanitarian crisis facing these children. Another proposal, H.R. 5272, is also mean-spirited: it would end any possible expansion or changes to the federal Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, which has provided well over half a million DREAMers with a fair chance to remain in the U.S. and work towards their future aspirations. For example, this bill would limit immigration opportunities for parents of DREAMers or U.S. citizens and prevent families from being able to stay together in the U.S.

“It is shameful that after a year of stagnancy, the House’s only action is focused on denying children due process protections and limiting their immigration options,” said Suman Raghunathan, Executive Director of South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT). “Denying children legal counsel and moving to expedite their deportations is unconscionable. These bills do not reflect the values or principles of our nation. SAALT urges Representatives to VOTE NO on both of these bills.”

Click here to take action now: Tell your Representative to VOTE NO on these bills. Protect unaccompanied immigrant children and DREAMers from being denied the basic rights under which our nation was founded.