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*FAIR is a nonprofit public interest organization working to end illegal immigration and to set levels of legal immigration that are consistent with the national interest*



FEDERATION FOR AMERICAN IMMIGRATION REFORM

January 3, 2017

The Honorable Patrick J. Toomey  
248 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Diane Black  
1131 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator Toomey and Congressman Black,

On behalf of the Federation for American Immigration Reform's (FAIR) nearly 1.5 million members and supporters nationwide, I am writing to thank you for reintroducing the Stop Dangerous Sanctuary Cities Act in the new Congress.

As you know, immigration enforcement was a cornerstone of President-elect Trump's campaign and instrumental in propelling him to victory. Similarly, Senator Toomey made opposing sanctuary cities the focal point of his successful reelection bid and Congressman Black has criticized sanctuary jurisdictions for years in the lower chamber. Americans are now looking to Congress and the new administration to enact some of the meaningful immigration policy changes discussed during the campaign, including putting an end to sanctuary cities—State and local jurisdictions with policies that obstruct immigration enforcement.

Sanctuary policies that impede the federal government's ability to enforce immigration laws needlessly endanger American lives and all too often result in preventable tragedies. Remarkably, more than 300 sanctuary jurisdictions nationwide continue to shield illegal aliens from deportation in direct violation of federal law. Their policies, according to the Center for Immigration Studies, have resulted in the release of thousands of criminal aliens that ICE was trying to deport, thus allowing these offenders to remain in American communities and commit more crimes. The continued presence of these jurisdictions is a clear threat to national security, public safety, and the rule of law.

Although FAIR has warned for years about the dangers posed by



sanctuary cities, the issue gained national attention following the senseless death of Kate Steinle in July 2015 in San Francisco. Kate's killer, Juan Francisco Lopez-Sanchez, was an illegal alien who had seven felony convictions and had been previously deported five times. Lopez-Sanchez admitted during a jailhouse interview that he went to San Francisco specifically because it was a sanctuary city that would not actively seek to deport him. Simply, criminal aliens like Lopez-Sanchez should not be protected, and the jurisdictions that do so should not benefit from federal funding.

The Stop Dangerous Sanctuary Cities Act recognizes that sanctuary jurisdictions should not be allowed to defy federal immigration law without consequence. Jurisdictions that impede the enforcement of federal immigration laws would be denied access to federal funding. If these jurisdictions do receive grants and are then found to have sanctuary policies, they will be required to give back the funds, which will then be reallocated to compliant jurisdictions. If the government fails to recoup the money and reallocate it, states may sue to uphold the law. The legislation also clarifies that State and local authorities are permitted by law to carry out detainer requests, and includes essential protections for witnesses and victims of crime.

For the aforementioned reasons, FAIR joins with numerous law enforcement organizations and applauds you for introducing the Stop Dangerous Sanctuary Cities Act. FAIR will include the vote in our voting report when it is considered on the Senate and House floors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan Stein', written in a cursive style.

Dan Stein  
President