

and we look forward to working with you and your staff to see it signed into law.

Very Respectfully,

SAM A. CABRAL,
International President.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC.,
Alexandria, Virginia, October 7, 2015.

Senator DAVID VITTER,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.
Chairman CHUCK GRASSLEY,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.
Senator RON JOHNSON,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.
Senator PAT TOOMEY,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.
Senator TED CRUZ,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATORS VITTER, TOOMEY, GRASSLEY, CRUZ, AND JOHNSON: On behalf of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), I am writing to you to express our support for the Stop Sanctuary Policies and Protect Americans Act, which will enable federal and local law enforcement officers to work together to protect our communities.

NAPO is a coalition of police unions and associations from across the United States that serves to advance the interests of America's law enforcement through legislative and legal advocacy, political action, and education. Founded in 1978, NAPO now represents more than 1,000 police units and associations, 241,000 sworn law enforcement officers, and more than 100,000 citizens who share a common dedication to fair and effective crime control and law enforcement.

The system relies on local law enforcement complying with immigration detainees—requests from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for local law enforcement to hold an illegal immigrant temporarily, to give federal law enforcement an opportunity to take the individual into custody.

Unfortunately, several courts have ruled that local law enforcement officers may be sued for violating the Fourth Amendment if they comply with an immigration detainee, even if the detainee was lawfully issued and the detention would have been legal if carried out by DHS. This means that dangerous criminals cannot be held and must be released. The Stop Sanctuary Policies and Protect Americans Act solves this problem by explicitly stating that local law enforcement officers have legal authority to comply with immigration detainees. The bill also protects civil liberties, ensuring that someone who has had their constitutional rights violated may sue.

Furthermore, the Stop Sanctuary Policies and Protect Americans Act takes crucial steps to eliminating sanctuary jurisdictions, which pose real threats to the American people, and increases penalties for criminals who re-enter the United States illegally, providing federal, state and local law enforcement vital tools to help keep our communities safe.

NAPO also commends you for preserving flexibility for law enforcement, so that victims of crime and witnesses to crime who are in the U.S. illegally may come forward and cooperate with police.

We look forward to working with your offices to pass this important legislation. If we can provide any assistance, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM J. JOHNSON,
Executive Director.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Some on the other side of the aisle are criticizing us for politicizing these recent attacks by criminal aliens and releases by sanctuary jurisdictions. We are being ac-

cused of attacking immigrants. However, I just want to note that the Democrats take no shame in politicizing the recent gun violence and promoting legislation that would not have stopped some of the shootings, from Newtown, CT, to Roseburg, OR.

This is not a partisan issue. This bill protects law-abiding people and improves our public safety. Had it been enacted before July 1, individuals like Kate Steinle might still be with us.

I would think we should all be able to agree that people who are in the country illegally and committing crimes should not be released back into the community. There has to be accountability and a commitment to uphold the rule of law. For too long we sat by while sanctuary jurisdictions released dangerous criminals into the community to harm our citizens. It is finally time that we put an end to it, and tomorrow we will have that opportunity. It is time we work toward protecting our communities rather than continue to put them in danger.

I hope all of my colleagues will support this bill and vote to proceed to it tomorrow.

I yield the floor.

STOP SANCTUARY CITIES POLICIES AND PROTECT AMERICANS ACT

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, for the first time in more than 2 years, the Senate is turning its attention to an issue related to our broken immigration system. But in stark contrast to the comprehensive, hopeful legislation last reported by the Senate Judiciary Committee, the majority is simply scheduling a show vote today on a divisive, partisan proposal that has not even been considered in the Judiciary Committee. What a difference a change in leadership makes.

There are few topics more fundamental to who we are as a Nation than immigration. A consistent thread through our history is the arrival of new people to this country seeking a better life. Immigration has been an ongoing source of renewal for America—a renewal of our spirit, our creativity, and our economic strength.

Two years ago, the Senate reaffirmed its commitment to these ideals when we approved S. 744, the Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act. That legislation, which was supported by 68 Senators from both parties, would have meaningfully improved our great country by making our communities safer, strengthening our economy, improving border security, and keeping families together. It was a remarkable, bipartisan effort that was made better through the extensive amendment process in the Senate Judiciary Committee. It was an example of all that we can accomplish when we actually focus on the hard job of legislating.

The bill we are considering today could not be more different. This legis-

lation is not bipartisan. It does not reflect a desire to meaningfully improve what we all agree is a broken immigration system. Instead, this bill is, as the New York Times editorialized on Saturday, "a class-action slander against an immigrant population that has been scapegoated for the crimes of a few, and left stranded by the failure of legislative reform that would open a path for them to live fully within the law."

Those who support this bill point to a tragedy that captured our attention this summer. Any time an innocent person is killed, we have an obligation to understand what happened and try to prevent similar tragedies in the future. We all feel that way about the senseless and terribly cruel death of Kate Steinle. Her death was avoidable. Our system failed, period. And it is heart-wrenching that such a beautiful, young life was taken by a man who should never have been free on our streets.

We are motivated to do something in the wake of her death. Just as we are motivated to act in the wake of the senseless killings of nine men and women attending a Bible study class in Charleston, SC. Or the nine innocent people brutally murdered at an Oregon community college. These are moments that demand leadership. We should roll up our sleeves and start to address the problems that led us here. We should address gun violence and the criminals who threaten our safety instead of characterizing entire immigrant communities as criminals.

Unfortunately, it does not appear that we will be given that chance. Rather than marking this legislation up in Committee with input and amendments from both sides, the bill before us was yanked off of the Judiciary Committee agenda once the majority leader decided to bring it straight to the floor. Others can speculate about what motivated the timing of today's vote. What we know for sure is that this action goes against precisely what the majority leader promised last year when he said that "[b]ills should go through Committee. And if Republicans are fortunate enough to gain the majority next year, they would." It is disappointing that he has broken his promise on legislation of such importance.

If this bill were to become law, it would create two new mandatory minimums and cost us millions of dollars that we do not have. This would deny funding for critical services in local communities and do nothing to fix the broken immigration system we have today. At a time when the Judiciary Committee is engaged in a thoughtful, bipartisan effort to reform our criminal justice system and save taxpayers money in the process, it makes no sense to forgo that process for considering this immigration bill.

If we are really trying to make our communities safer, we should listen to the police officers and law enforcement officials who dedicate their lives to

that very mission. We should listen to domestic violence advocates who say the approach in this partisan bill will have a dangerous effect on the lives of women and children at risk. They are telling us this bill will make our communities less safe. It will undermine the trust and cooperation between police officers and immigrant communities. It will damage efforts to prevent crime and weaken their ability to apprehend those who prey on the public. That is why the National Fraternal Order of Police is opposed to policies that would be implemented by this bill. It is why the National Taskforce to End Sexual and Domestic Violence Against Women opposes this bill. It is why the U.S. Conference of Mayors opposes this bill.

I ask unanimous consent that letters from the National Fraternal Order of Police and the National Taskforce to End Sexual and Domestic Violence Against Women be printed in the RECORD.

I agree with Senator HELLER, who noted: "For two years we haven't had a discussion and so all the sudden we're going to bring up an immigration issue and not talk about the bigger issue." The problems plaguing our immigration system demand that we respond thoughtfully and responsibly. We can do better. We owe it to the American public to do better. I urge Senators to vote against cloture on this partisan bill that will not make us safer.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

NATIONAL FRATERNAL
ORDER OF POLICE,
Washington, DC, July 15, 2015.

Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

Hon. HARRY M. REID,
Minority Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Hon. NANCY P. PELOSI,
Minority Leader, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR MCCONNELL, MR. SPEAKER, SENATOR REID AND REPRESENTATIVE PELOSI: I am writing on behalf of the members of the Fraternal Order of Police to advise you of our strong opposition to any amendment or piece of legislation that would penalize law enforcement agencies by withholding Federal funding or resources from law enforcement assistance programs in an effort to coerce a policy change in so-called "sanctuary cities." This is not meant to be construed as a position on "sanctuary cities," but rather on the use of Federal programs as an enforcement mechanism.

Local police departments answer to local civilian government and it is the local government which enacts statutes and ordinances in their communities. Law enforcement officers have no more say in these matters than any other citizen and, with laws like the Hatch Act in place, it can be argued they have less. Law enforcement officers do not get to pick and choose which laws to enforce and must carry out lawful orders at the direction of their commanders and the civilian government that employs them. It is wrong and a gross unfairness to punish these

brave men and women, or the citizens they serve, because Congress disagrees with their enforcement priorities with respect to our nation's immigration laws.

The FOP believes very strongly that local police departments should at all times endeavor to cooperate with their Federal law enforcement colleagues but they also must follow the laws and policies of the government that employs them. It is critical to public safety and national security that local, State, Federal and tribal law enforcement work together and rely on the expertise and resources that each agency brings to the mission. This cannot be achieved if the Federal government is reducing the resources available to local law enforcement nor will it aid in cooperative efforts to address threats to public safety.

For these reasons, the FOP will vigorously oppose any amendment, bill or other legislative effort which would reduce or withhold funding or resources from any Federal program for local and State law enforcement. If Congress wishes to effect policy changes in these cities, it must find another way to do so.

On behalf of the more than 330,000 members of the Fraternal Order of Police, I want to thank you for your consideration of our view on this issue. Please feel free to contact me or Executive Director Jim Pasco in my Washington office if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

CHUCK CANTERBURY,
National President.

NATIONAL TASK FORCE TO END SEXUAL AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN,

October 14, 2015.

DEAR SENATOR: As the Steering Committee of the National Taskforce to End Sexual and Domestic Violence (NTF), comprising national leadership organizations advocating on behalf of sexual and domestic violence victims and women's rights, we represent hundreds of organizations across the country dedicated to ensuring all survivors of violence receive the protections they deserve. For this reason, we write to express our deep concerns about the impact that S. 2146, the "Stop Sanctuary Policies and Protect Americans Act," will have on communities with "sanctuary" policies. Such legislation will be dangerous for all victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, and trafficking, and in particular, for immigrant victims, and communities at large.

S. 2146 undermines policies that local jurisdictions have determined are Constitutionally sound and appropriate for their respective communities, and it decreases the ability of law enforcement agencies to respond to violent crimes and assist all victims of crime, U.S. Citizens, and immigrants alike. As recognized in the bipartisan Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), law enforcement plays a critical role in our coordinated community response to domestic and sexual violence. Law enforcement funds support critical training, equipment, and agency staffing that assists domestic and sexual violence victims. Provisions in S. 2146 that reduce funding for law enforcement agencies will allow violent crimes to go uninvestigated and leave victims without redress.

In addition, provisions in S. 2146 seek to reduce Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to communities with "sanctuary" policies, which will harm communities by reducing access to critical housing and community services that are accessed by all victims, including both U.S. Citizens and immigrants.

Community trust policies are critical tools for increasing community safety. We re-

cently celebrated the twenty-first anniversary of VAWA, which has, since it was first enacted, included critical protections for immigrant victims of domestic and sexual violence. Laws that seek to intertwine the immigration and law enforcement systems will undermine the Congressional purpose of protections enacted under VAWA and will have the chilling effect of pushing immigrant victims into the shadows and allow criminals to walk on our streets. As VAWA recognizes, immigrant victims of violent crimes often do not contact law enforcement due to fear that they will be deported. According to a study conducted by the National Domestic Violence Hotline and the National Latin@ Network: Casa de Esperanza, 45% of the foreign-born callers expressed fear of calling and/or seeking help from the police or courts. Furthermore, 12% of US-Born callers expressed fear of seeking help due to the current wave of anti-immigrant policies. Immigrants are already afraid of contacting the police and these policies will only exacerbate this fear.

Perpetrators use fear of deportation as abuse. Local policies that minimize intertwining of local law enforcement with ICE help bring the most vulnerable victims out of the shadows by creating trust between law enforcement and the immigrant community, which in turn help protect entire communities. Abusers and traffickers use the fear of deportation of their victims as a tool to silence and trap them. Not only are the individual victims harmed, but their fear of law enforcement leads many to abstain from reporting violent perpetrators or coming forward, and, as a result, dangerous criminals are not identified and go unpunished. These criminals remain on the streets and continue to be a danger to our communities.

S. 2146's harsh criminal penalties will harm victims of trafficking, sexual assault, and domestic violence. Immigrant victims are vulnerable to being arrested and prosecuted for crimes directly connected to their victimization. For example, victims of domestic violence are arrested and convicted of domestic violence related crimes, even when they are not the primary perpetrator of violence in the relationship, due to language and cultural barriers. In addition, victims of sex trafficking are often arrested and convicted of prostitution-related offenses. Often, victims are desperate to be released, and in some cases, reunited with their children upon arrest and/or during trial. These factors—combined with poor legal counsel, particularly about the immigration consequences of criminal pleas and convictions—have in the past and will likely continue to lead to the deportation of wrongly accused victims who may have pled to or been unfairly convicted of domestic violence charges.

For these reasons, we urge you to affirm the intent and spirit of VAWA and oppose S. 2146 and other similar legislative proposals that may be introduced. Thank you very much for taking this important step to protect and support immigrant survivors of domestic violence, trafficking, and sexual assault.

For more information, please contact Grace Huang, Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence or Andrea Carcamo, National Latin@ Network: Casa de Esperanza.

Sincerely,

THE NATIONAL TASK FORCE
TO END SEXUAL AND
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate