

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

proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO TOM BRENNAN

• Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, today, I wish to honor Tom Brennan—a longtime reporter and editor at my hometown paper, the Mansfield News Journal. This week, Tom will retire from the News Journal after a 43-year career in journalism.

Tom and I are both natives of Richland County, OH. He has been with the News Journal since 1972 in various roles, so we have known each other for pretty much our entire careers.

I have always had a bit of a soft spot for journalists—after all, I married one.

And as with any journalist, Tom and I haven't always seen eye-to-eye on every issue, but I have always respected his integrity and the important service he provides to the Mansfield community.

He has always been fair and civic minded and has taken seriously one of his most important jobs: holding politicians like me accountable.

Through his leadership in the newsroom, Tom has not only demonstrated a deep passion for serving our community, he has also been a coach and mentor to so many men and women who have worked at the News Journal for the last 40 years. He has helped them to become accomplished writers and reporters and has helped ensure that the News Journal will continue his legacy of thoughtful, quality journalism.

Over the past four decades, Tom has faced a changing news industry, and he has always responded with the best interest of his writers and the community in mind. The evolution of this business has put too many local papers out of business.

But Tom and his team have been able to keep the News Journal in print, while reaching new audiences online, and that is a great accomplishment.

Tom's impressive career in journalism isn't the only way he has served the Mansfield community. He has been active in many local organizations, including the Mansfield Children's Theater Foundation, the local chamber of commerce, the Richland County Economic Development Corporation, the North Central State College Foundation, and the Mansfield Military Affairs Committee.

While he will be missed by many, I have little doubt that the end of his career will not be the end of his community engagement.

I join his readers and newsroom staff in wishing him the best for a fulfilling retirement worthy of his honorable career.●

REMEMBERING LEON GORMAN

• Mr. KING. Mr. President, today we solemnly remember a dear friend of Maine, the late Leon Gorman. Leon was president of L.L. Bean and a committed environmentalist, but more than that, he was a wonderful man and gifted leader. On September 3, 2015, Leon passed away at the age of 80. Throughout his life, he devoted endless attention and time to the betterment of Maine, and he will be greatly missed.

Leon graduated cum laude from Bowdoin College before serving in the Navy for 3 years. When he stepped in to fill his grandfather's shoes as president of L.L. Bean in 1967, Leon took the company from a \$4.75 million corporation to \$1 billion global label. In his memoir, Leon writes that his proudest accomplishment was growing his grandfather's company from less than 100 workers into one that has employed tens of thousands of Mainers over several decades. Even with this impressive growth, Leon remained committed to the company's values and stayed true to the traditions and spirit of the State he loved. He was a true man of Maine in every way.

Leon was an extremely successful businessman, but also an active philanthropist. He donated generously to the National Park Foundation and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, as well as to numerous other environmental groups and State parks. He was also a very active Bowdoin alumnus, giving generously to the college and serving as both an overseer and trustee.

During his time as chairman of L.L. Bean, Leon focused the company's charitable giving program on outdoor recreation and conservation. Not only did Leon personally donate to environmental groups, but under his leadership, L.L. Bean, Inc., has contributed millions to conservation groups and has provided funding for education, health and human services, and the arts throughout Maine. Leon will be fondly remembered for his unmatched generosity of heart, unwavering commitment to the people of our State, and his deep and abiding love for all that is Maine.

Through his tireless efforts, Leon affected countless lives and contributed greatly to the betterment of Maine. He will be remembered for his firm devotion to protecting and enjoying nature and his dedication to the communities of our State. The State of Maine has lost a man of true integrity, and he will be greatly missed. I would like to join the people of Maine in remembering Leon Gorman and thanking him for his immeasurable contributions to our State and the Nation.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 4:08 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 538. An act to facilitate the development of energy on Indian lands by reducing Federal regulations that impede tribal development of Indian lands, and for other purposes.

H.R. 702. An act to adapt to changing crude oil market conditions.

The message also announced that pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 6913 and the order of the House of January 6, 2015, the Speaker appoints the following Member on the part of the House of Representatives to the Congressional-Executive Commission on the People's Republic of China: Mrs. BLACK of Tennessee.

The message further announced that pursuant to section 451 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (Public Law 113-128) and the order of the House of January 6, 2015, the Speaker appoints the following member on the part of the House of Representatives to the National Council on Disability: Lt. Colonel Daniel M. Gade, Ph.D. of New Windsor, New York.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 538. An act to facilitate the development of energy on Indian lands by reducing Federal regulations that impede tribal development of Indian lands, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

H.R. 702. An act to adapt to changing crude oil market conditions; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 2165. A bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to permanently authorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

S. 2169. A bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to extend the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bills were read the first time:

S. 2181. A bill to provide guidance and priorities for Federal Government obligations in the event that the debt limit is reached.

S. 2182. A bill to cut, cap, and balance the Federal budget.

S. 2183. A bill to reauthorize and reform the Export-Import Bank of the United States, and for other purposes.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. ISAKSON, from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and an amendment to the title:

S. 1203. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the processing by the Department of Veterans Affairs of claims for benefits under laws administered by the