



NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

JONATHAN F. THOMPSON
Executive Director

October 6, 2015

The Honorable David Vitter
United States Senate
516 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick Toomey
United States Senate
248 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
United States Senate
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ted Cruz
United States Senate
404 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ron Johnson
United States Senate
328 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20150

Dear Senator Vitter, Senator Toomey, Senator Grassley, Senator Cruz, and Senator Johnson:

On behalf of the National Sheriffs' Association and the more than 3,000 sheriffs nationwide, I write today in support of legislation you intend to introduce, the "Stop Sanctuary Policies and Protect American Act." This bill takes an important step in clarifying the definition of sanctuary jurisdictions while also offering additional protections for state and local officers.

As you all know, state and local law enforcement agencies are critical partners in immigration and border security efforts all across this country. For too long, however, those officers had little to no liability protections when lawfully enforcing Federal immigration detainers on behalf of the Department of Homeland Security. Your bill takes the important step of clarifying those protections so that deputies acting within the bounds of the law will not be held personally liability in future court actions. The grant penalties you would impose also acknowledge that our public safety entities should not be punished for the actions of a state or local subdivision over which they may not have control. I appreciate the careful consideration you clearly gave that issue.

On behalf of the National Sheriffs' Association, I applaud your efforts on this important issue and look forward to working with you on passage. If the National Sheriffs' Association can be of assistance this or any other issue, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Jonathan F. Thompson