



NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

JONATHAN F. THOMPSON
Executive Director

June 23, 2015

The Honorable Trey Gowdy
U.S. House of Representatives
1404 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jeff Sessions
United States Senate
326 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Congressman Gowdy and Senator Sessions:

On behalf of the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) and the more than 3,000 elected sheriffs nationwide, I write to you today in support of legislation you introduced: H.R. 1148/ S.1640, the *Michael Davis, Jr. and Danny Oliver in Honor of State and Local Law Enforcement Act*. These bills address the current lack of authority of states and localities to enforce immigration laws.

Currently, state and local law enforcement agencies do not have the authority to enforce immigration laws absent any cooperative agreements. Your bill would address this issue by allowing states and localities to enact and enforce their own immigration laws as well as assisting in enforcing federal immigration laws. Your bill further supports this aim by mandating that the Secretary of Homeland Security provide immigration status information to the NCIC database. Furthermore, your bill takes the important step of providing grants to state and local agencies to facilitate the enforcement of immigration laws as well as reimbursing these agencies for any reasonable costs incurred while complying with new reporting requirements. Additionally, your bill extends the same immunity from personal liability that federal law enforcement receives to state and local law enforcement. By establishing these policies, you are acknowledging the importance of state and local enforcement of immigration laws.

In closing, I thank you both for your tireless work on behalf of states and localities struggling with issues pertaining to immigration. I look forward to working with you to pass the *Michael Davis, Jr. and Daniel Oliver in Honor of State and Local Law Enforcement Act* and working with you on many other important issues in the 114th Congress. If I can be any assistance, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jonathan F. Thompson". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Jonathan F. Thompson