



NATIONAL CONFERENCE *of* STATE LEGISLATURES

The Forum for America's Ideas

June 29, 2017

Speaker Paul Ryan
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
United States Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
United States Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: H.R. 3003, the “No Sanctuary for Criminals Act,”

Dear Speaker Ryan and Minority Leader Pelosi:

On behalf of our nation’s fifty state legislatures, we write to express our opposition to H.R. 3003, the “No Sanctuary for Criminals Act.” NCSL has supported a partnership with the federal government in enforcing criminal immigration violations. Many states and localities over the years have voluntarily entered into flexible agreements with the federal government to conduct enforcement activities. NCSL maintains that cutting critical law enforcement and community development funding to states and localities is the wrong approach to solving our nation’s immigration issues. This legislation creates additional community relations and crime-solving hurdles for those whose responsibility it is to keep our communities safe and crime-free.

If passed, H.R. 3003 will penalize states that do not comply with its requirements by withholding important funding in the following programs: Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS); Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program (Byrne JAG); and other grants administered by the Department of Justice or Department of Homeland Security substantially related to law enforcement, national security and immigration. COPS funding promotes the goal of mutual respect between police and the communities they serve. The COPS program at the state and local level is used, in part, to fund crime prevention and deterrent programs like anti-gang initiatives, anti-methamphetamine programs and anti-heroin task forces. COPS is also used to hire police officers who will work to strengthen police-community relations and fight crime in our communities.

All of these programs are vitally important to states and localities for both crime fighting, crime deterrence and prevention, and community relations and development purposes. The penalty provisions of H.R. 3003 would only serve to impede state and local law enforcements efforts to fight crime, enhance and strengthen police-community relations and provide economic assistance to some of our most vulnerable populations, like homeless veterans. NCSL stands committed to working with Congress to pass meaningful and comprehensive immigration reform that

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addresses all immigration issues, including respect for the proper role of state and local law enforcement personnel.

If you have any questions or need further assistance, please contact NCSL staff member Susan Parnas Frederick, at susan.frederick@ncsl.org or 202-624-3566.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William T. Pound". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "P" at the end.

William T. Pound
Executive Director
National Conference of State Legislatures

CC: Members of the U.S. House of Representatives