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FAIR is a nonprofit public interest organization working to end illegal immigration and to set levels of legal immigration that are consistent with the national interest.



October 19, 2015

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

Dear Senator Vitter:

I am writing to thank you for your efforts as a United States Senator to end “sanctuary cities”—State and local jurisdictions with policies that obstruct immigration enforcement and compromise public safety.

Your bill, the Stop Sanctuary Polices and Protect Americans Act (S. 2146), is a commonsense measure that denies certain federal grants to jurisdictions that obstruct efforts by the Department of Homeland Security to identify and remove illegal aliens, including criminal aliens. Jurisdictions that interfere with immigration enforcement should not benefit from federal funds. Additionally, your bill increases penalties for illegal reentry and sends a message that we take the enforcement of the nation’s immigration laws seriously.

The tragic death of Kate Steinle over the summer in the sanctuary city of San Francisco illustrates the necessity of your bill. As you know, the suspect, Francisco Sanchez, was in San Francisco law enforcement custody but was released him back onto the streets—ignoring an ICE detainer request in the process—because of the sanctuary policy. Ms. Steinle’s death was preventable and the public expects the U.S. Congress to hold these jurisdictions accountable.

Tuesday’s vote on your bill is straightforward. A vote for S. 2146 shows that Senators want to protect law-abiding citizens. A vote against S. 2146 means they want to protect criminal aliens—individuals who not only violate our immigration laws but our criminal laws as well. I trust that the Stop Sanctuary Policies and Protect Americans Act will enjoy broad bipartisan support.

Sincerely,

Dan Stein
President

