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October 14, 2015

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

Dear Senator Vitter:

As President of NumbersUSA, a non-partisan activist network of more than 3 million citizens, I am writing to express our support for the Stop Sanctuary Policies and Protect Americans Act.

Following the murder of Kate Steinle, the American people became acutely aware that while many States and localities blatantly violate Federal law and release criminal aliens onto their streets, the Federal government does absolutely nothing to stop them. Kate's death was far from the first instance of a murder by a criminal alien that could have been prevented, and more lives will be lost until Congress finally acts. We believe that this piece of legislation, S. 2146, is an appropriate and much needed first step.

According to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), there are currently 340 "sanctuary jurisdictions" in the United States. Over a 9-month period last year, these jurisdictions released 9,295 aliens that ICE was seeking to deport. It is unconscionable that Congress would continue to provide taxpayer money to these jurisdictions and subsidize their willful disregard of the law and public safety.

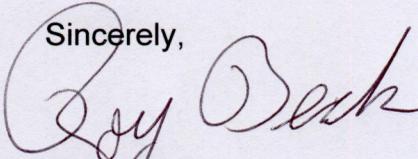
The Stop Sanctuary Policies and Protect Americans Act first restricts funding from the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP), from Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), and from Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) for sanctuary jurisdictions. It reallocates those funds to jurisdictions that cooperate with ICE. The bill also requires the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to publicly post a list of sanctuary jurisdictions online, including the number of ICE detainees ignored by each jurisdiction. These provisions would appropriately punish sanctuary jurisdictions, encourage further compliance with the law, reward those jurisdictions already in compliance, and ensure that the public knows where their local governments stand.

Another critical element of this legislation is that it protects local officers while they carry out ICE detainers, clarifying that they are acting as agents of ICE with all of the necessary authority and protection from liability granted to a Federal law enforcement officer. No law enforcement officer should fear retribution for following the law.

Finally, this bill increases the maximum penalties for aliens who illegally reenter the country following denial of admission, exclusion, deportation, or removal, and creates a mandatory minimum sentence for those who are convicted of an aggravated felony or two instances of illegal reentry, all of which would help protect the public from criminal aliens.

NumbersUSA applauds your leadership on this issue and stands eager to assist you in advancing the StopSanctuary Policies and Protect Americans Act.

Sincerely,



Roy Beck  
President and Founder  
NumbersUSA

Cc:

The Honorable Charles Grassley  
The Honorable John Cornyn  
The Honorable Ted Cruz  
The Honorable John Isakson  
The Honorable Ron Johnson  
The Honorable David Perdue  
The Honorable Patrick Toomey  
The Honorable John Barrasso  
The Honorable James Inhofe  
The Honorable Marco Rubio  
The Honorable Dan Sullivan  
The Honorable John Boozman  
The Honorable Roger Wicker