

SB 157
Requiring the KS Highway Patrol to deputize officers to work with ICE in immigration enforcement.

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

I come before you today in my capacity as chair of Kansans for Conservative Values, an organization that focuses on promoting conservative ideals across our state through legislative and electoral advocacy.

Senate Bill 157 is a common sense law that would untie a Kansas Highway Patrol officer's hands if they came across a situation that would normally require an extended wait for an ICE agent to arrive.

Why should we force a fully capable law enforcement officer to wait, when we could have them trained and ready to address these situations?

We fully understand the differing opinions within this committee and the legislature when it comes to illegal immigration. But one thing that the majority of us can agree on is that we should be able to combat illegal drugs and human trafficking with all means available.

One of the major issue faced in combating human trafficking is a cohesiveness between federal agencies and individual states. This bill, if passed, would be a stepping stone between ICE and the state of Kansas. For those concerned with the possibility of deportation of illegal immigrants being trafficked in the United States, we urge you to read the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000. It allows for protections for victims of severe forms of trafficking and violence, which includes those under the age of 18.

While this bill would allow for the KHP to make immigration related arrests and take custody of illegal immigrants, it will also allow for a more cohesive relationship between the state and federal government in order to keep drugs off of our streets and children from being trafficked. We urge you to pass this bill.

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SB 158

Removing state funding from local units of government, known as sanctuary cities/counties, that refuse to cooperate with ICE Detainer Requests.

My parents immigrated to the United States in 1973. My father became a citizen, but my mother is content keeping her resident alien status. As a resident alien, there are certain things someone like my mother can be deported for.

A resident alien can be deported for being a self-admitted drug addict, or for voting in a United States election. But in five Kansas counties, an illegal alien won't be deported when they commit a serious crime. That's because these five counties are what we call sanctuary counties.

The idea is that they create a safe haven for people who come to the United States illegally in order for illegal aliens to feel safe. And so the ACLU doesn't sue the county when it takes longer than expected for ICE to start the deportation process.

Many people argue that illegal immigrants are less likely to break laws than citizens. What they neglect to admit is these individuals broke a law when they came to the United States. Broke a law when they drove a car in Kansas without a valid driver's license. Broke a law when they had no insurance. Broke a law when they stole a social security number in order to get a job. And the list goes on.

As the child of immigrants, I have had the opportunity to grow up around other immigrants. The majority of these immigrants came here legally, whether it was from Europe, the Middle East, or Africa. Some came for work, others came seeking political asylum. And I've known a handful who came illegally.

One thing always sticks out about those I've gotten to know who came here illegally, they typically work very hard to fly under the radar. And in many cases that means participating in illegal activity, such as dealing drugs to make ends meet.

Sanctuary cities and counties do not create safe havens, but instead attract criminals. It's time that we stop protecting illegal immigrants. It's time we eliminated sanctuary counties in Kansas.

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