

**PRESIDENT**

Daniel Stein

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Julie Kirchner

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Roy Porter, Chairman

Nancy S. Anthony

Sharon Barnes

Douglas E. Caton, Maj. Gen., U.S. Army Reserve (Ret.)

William W. Chip, Esq.

Pat Choate

Donald A. Collins Jr.

Sarah G. Epstein

Frank Morris, Ph.D.

Alan Weeden

**NATIONAL BOARD OF ADVISORS***Partial Listing*

The Hon. Brian Bilbray, Co-Chairman

Donald A. Collins Sr., Co-Chairman

Duke Austin

The Hon. Louis Barletta

Gwat Bhattacharjie

Gerda Bikales

J. Bayard Boyle Jr.

Hugh Brien

John Brock

Torrey Brown, M.D.

Frances Burke, Ph.D.

Clifford Colwell, M.D.

Kevin Donaleski, Lt. Col. U.S.M.C. (Ret.)

James R. Dorcy

Alfred P. Doyle, M.D.

Dino Drudi

Paul Egan

Bonnie Erbé

Don Feder

Robert Gillespie

Otis L. Graham Jr., Ph.D.

Robert E. Hannay

Lawrence E. Harrison

Marilyn Hempel

Dale M. Herder, Ph.D.

Diana Hull, Ph.D.

Glenn Jackson

Mrs. T. N. Jordan

The Hon. Richard D. Lamm

Roy C. Lierman

Donald Mann

Scott McConnell

James G. McDonald, Esq.

Helen Milliken

Mrs. Carlos G. Morrison

Nita Norman

Peter Nunez, Esq.

Robert D. Park

Fred Pinkham, Ph.D.

Bruce S. Reid

Albert F. Rodriguez, Col. U.S. Army (Ret.)

David M. Schippers, Esq.

John Philip Sousa, IV

John Tanton, M.D.

Max Thelen Jr.

The Hon. Curtin Winsor Jr.

Frosty Wooldridge

Robert Zaitlin, M.D.

*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.*



July 17, 2012

Mr. John Morton, Director  
 U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement  
 Department of Homeland Security  
 500 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
 Washington, D.C. 20536

Dear Mr. Morton,

On behalf of the Federation for American Immigration Reform, I am writing to urge you to speak out decisively in opposition to the growing number of state and local governments that are refusing to honor detainers issued by your agency, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). This issue is critical to the ability of ICE to carry out its mission and protect the interests and security of the American people.

For decades, ICE and its predecessor agencies have, pursuant to federal statute and regulations, issued detainers on aliens who are in the custody of state and local law enforcement agencies. These detainers ask local law enforcement agencies to hold such individuals when they are eligible for release so that ICE may assume custody of them and conduct further investigation or begin the removal process.

Over the past two years, however, local jurisdictions that oppose immigration enforcement have begun to adopt policies that direct their jails to ignore ICE detainers in all but the most serious cases. San Francisco County (Calif.) was one of the earliest jurisdictions to do so, with Santa Clara County (Calif.) and Cook County (Ill.) following closely behind. Now, other jurisdictions are continuing this trend. The State of California and the City of Chicago are poised to adopt anti-detainer laws this summer.

If California and Chicago pass anti-detainer laws, the impact on public safety could be severe. California has the nation's largest illegal alien population in the nation; Illinois has the fifth largest. If California and Chicago jails are ordered by law to ignore ICE detainers, these jails will have no choice but to release these criminals – criminals who have no right to be in the United States – back onto the street.

These legislative proposals pose a serious threat to public safety not only in California and Chicago, but nationwide. Criminals released by one jurisdiction can, and often do, victimize people in other parts of the country.



Every American will be placed at risk as a consequence of the politically driven decisions of California and Chicago.

FAIR therefore urges you to immediately speak out against all of these anti-detainer measures. We are grateful for your efforts in opposing the Cook County ordinance, but the number of local jurisdictions obstructing immigration enforcement is growing and the time to stop these ordinances is before they are adopted. As the Director of Immigration and Customs Enforcement – our nation’s second largest investigative agency – your leadership on this issue will no doubt have great influence with local lawmakers.

We at FAIR stand ready to assist you in this effort in any way possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie Kirchner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "J" and a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Julie Kirchner,  
Executive Director