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FEDERATION FOR AMERICAN IMMIGRATION REFORM

October 6, 2017

The Honorable Stephen Nass

10 South

State Capitol

P.O. Box 7882

Madison, WI 53707

Dear Senator Nass,

On behalf of the Federation for American Immigration Reform's (FAIR) nearly 1.5 million members and supporters nationwide including 1,230 in Wisconsin, I am writing to thank you for introducing Senate Bill (SB) 275 to end dangerous sanctuary policies in the state. Because of your leadership in introducing and advocating for SB 275, the people of Wisconsin are several steps closer to being freed from policies that unfairly place the needs of illegal aliens above those of innocent and law-abiding Americans.

Cooperation between federal, state, and local governments is the cornerstone of effective immigration enforcement. State and local law enforcement officers are often the last line of defense against criminal aliens, and are far more likely to encounter illegal aliens during routine job activities than are federal agents. As such, the ability of state and local law enforcement and other government officials to freely cooperate and communicate with federal immigration authorities is not just important – but essential – to the enforcement of our immigration laws.

Shielding criminal aliens impedes the federal government's ability to enforce immigration laws, needlessly endangering innocent American lives. All too often, this can result in tragedy. According to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) estimates, roughly 2.1 million criminal aliens are living in the U.S., over 1.9 million of which are removable. If state and local law enforcement are prohibited from cooperating with federal immigration officials, these criminal aliens will continue to live in communities and engage in further criminal activity.

*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*



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Furthermore, illegal immigrants and their U.S.-born children are a huge burden Wisconsin, costing state taxpayers an estimated \$568,453,120. These costs come in the form of educational, healthcare, welfare, and law enforcement expenditures to illegal aliens and their families. By giving them a place to live and work where they can go undetected, sanctuary policies encourage further illegal immigration, thereby driving up these already outrageous costs.

To put an end to such dangerous policies in Wisconsin, your bill (SB 275) would encourage cooperation between federal, state, and local law enforcement officers, and withhold funding from jurisdictions that insist on obstructing enforcement of our immigration laws. These critical fixes represent significant steps toward responsible immigration reform and a safer America.

Again, on behalf of FAIR, thank you for your leadership in advancing sound immigration policy and putting the safety of the people in Wisconsin first.

Sincerely,



Bob Dane

Executive Director