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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



FEDERATION FOR AMERICAN IMMIGRATION REFORM

August 14, 2018

Brevard County Board of County Commissioners
2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Viera, Florida 32940

Dear Commissioners:

My name is Shari Rendall and I am the State and Local Director at the Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR). FAIR is a non-profit, non-partisan organization of 2 million members, supporters and concerned individuals who believe that our immigration laws must be reformed – and enforced – to better serve the needs of current and future generations.

For nearly 40 years, we have been offering ideas and advocating solutions that help reduce the harmful impact of illegal immigration on national security, public safety, jobs, education, health care, and our environment. As such, I write to express FAIR's strong support for Commissioner Tobia's resolution prohibiting the adoption of sanctuary policies.

Illegal immigration affects all facets of society, from the cost of education, to healthcare, to public benefits, to public safety and national security. Although the federal government is responsible for regulating immigration into the United States, local communities play an important role in helping to ensure that immigration law is effectively enforced and often pay the highest price when they aren't.

Sanctuary policies are bad public policy for the following reasons:

- Sanctuary policies endanger public safety. When state and local law enforcement or other officials fail to contact federal immigration authorities, criminal aliens are able to reenter communities and engage in further criminal activity at the expense and safety of citizens and legal immigrants. Even the average illegal alien, who some claim is "otherwise law-abiding," frequently violates numerous state and federal laws, including, but not limited to, those prohibiting identity theft,



forgery, and driving without a license or insurance, putting real victims in harm's way through their behavior.

- Sanctuary policies are perverse incentives, turning the places that adopt them into magnets for more illegal immigration. Accommodating those who violate our immigration laws encourages others to follow the same path and gives prospective immigrants little reason to pursue legal paths to immigration when they can side step the process and gain the same benefits. This increased illegal immigration results in higher costs of living, reduced job availability, lower wages, higher crime rates, fiscal hardship on hospitals and substandard quality of care for residents, burdens on public services, and a reduction on the overall quality of life.
- Sanctuary policies are expensive, and shift the costs of illegal immigration onto citizens and legal immigrants. Because of the difficulties of collecting taxes from people who are not lawfully present, many illegal aliens utilize state and local benefits and resources without contributing their fair share into the tax base.
- Sanctuary policies insult those legal immigrants who have patiently waited for months or years for the U.S. State Department and Department of Homeland Security to approve their applications and paid thousands of dollars in travel, legal and medical fees to abide by entry, employment, health and processing laws and regulations.
- Sanctuary policies conflict with federal law. Recognizing the adoption of sanctuary policies is a growing impediment to combating the wave of some 12.5 million illegal aliens residing in the country, Congress adopted the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 that barred state and local governments from prohibiting employees from providing, receiving, or sharing information on illegal aliens with federal government immigration officials.
- Sanctuary policies deny U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) critical assistance to enable it to accomplish its statutorily-mandated mission to identify and ultimately remove illegal aliens.

- Sanctuary policies undermine national security efforts and create an environment in which terrorists and individuals of national security concern can potentially go unnoticed and unimpeded.

Conversely, anti-sanctuary policies ensure that local officials are able to maintain a stream of communication with the federal government to best protect the interests of their people. State and local law enforcement agencies do not have to turn a blind eye to immigration violations that harm their communities simply because the regulation of immigration is a federal issue. To the contrary, Congress designed immigration law with assistance from state and local law enforcement in mind.

FAIR recognizes that the impetus behind the resolution before you came at least in part from the adoption of sanctuary policies by the City of Orlando and the Orlando Police Department, not far from Brevard County. We share your concerns about what that could lead to.

As you have noted in the past, Brevard County is not a sanctuary county, and this resolution stresses your commitment to ensuring it never becomes one. FAIR therefore supports it without reservation and recommends you adopt it.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to reach out if we may be of assistance in the future. I may be reached by email at srendall@fairus.org or by phone at 202-328-7004.

Sincerely,



Shari Rendall
State and Local Director