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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

March 18, 2021

The Honorable Linda Greenstein, Chair
Senate Law and Public Safety Committee
New Jersey Statehouse
125 West State St.
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Chairwoman and other distinguished Members of the Committee:

My name is Shari Rendall and I am the Director of State and Local Engagement at the Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR). FAIR is an non-profit, non-partisan organization of concerned individuals who believe that our immigration laws must be reformed to serve our nation’s interests.

FAIR advocates for immigration policies that reduce the harmful impact of illegal immigration on national security, public safety, the economy, jobs, education, healthcare and the environment.

Founded in 1979, FAIR has three million members and supporters nationwide including over 17,000 in New Jersey. On behalf of our members and supporters, I am writing to express FAIR’s opposition to Senate Bill (SB) 3361.

SB 3361 prohibits state and local jurisdictions from contracting with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) as well as prohibits private detention facilities from detaining any individual for ICE.. There are currently three county correctional facilities that contract with ICE and one private detention facility in the state.

Many open-borders advocates demonize correctional facilities that partner with ICE, as well as private detention facilities, hoping to convince the American people that no individuals entering the United States illegally should be detained. This concept of open borders has public safety and national security risks. Ninety percent of the illegal aliens arrested by ICE in the interior of the United States are either convicted criminals or face pending criminal charges. If these individuals were released back into the community instead of detained, approximately half would re-offend within a year and 75 percent would re-offend within five years, according to former ICE Director Tom Homan.



In addition, many proponents of bills like this one claim that private detention facilities operate outside the purview of public oversight and accountability. However, this is simply untrue. The private companies and contactors that operate these facilities must comply with strict governmental requirements as well as national accreditation and certification standards.

Moreover, policies like SB 3361 hamper ICE's ability to effectively accomplish its statutorily mandated mission to identify and ultimately remove illegal aliens, especially dangerous, criminal aliens. However, if New Jersey enacts this legislation, it will not succeed in stopping the detention of illegal aliens. It will simply raise the detention costs on taxpayers and it will mean individuals will be detained in other states further away from their families and counsel.

Likewise, SB 3361 imposes a "one-size-fits-all" policy statewide on communities that have already made the decision locally that they want a private detention facility. Such facilities provide both well-paying jobs and streams of federal revenue to localities that are already in dire straits due to the COVID-19 pandemic and associated economic downturn. Enacting SB 3361 could likely pull the rug out from under these localities and be economically devastating to both the areas workers and the local economy.

I thank you for the opportunity to provide my input. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me, if I may be of assistance. I may be reached by email at srendall@fairus.org or by phone at 202-328-7004.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shari Rendall". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Shari Rendall