

Talking Points Opposing Massachusetts Sanctuary State Bills

Threaten Public Safety and National Security

- Information is routinely shared among law enforcement officers so they can quickly and effectively carry out investigations regarding individuals who might pose a public safety or national security threat.
- State and local law enforcement are unlikely to know whether the individuals they arrest pose a terrorist or other security threat. Cooperation with federal authorities is needed to identify these risks.
- Many of the 9-11 terrorists were encountered by local law enforcement before the attacks, if local officials had cooperated more with federal authorities these 9-11 attacks may have been prevented.
- Sanctuary policies lead to dangerous criminals being released back into communities where they can reoffend, rather than being removed from the country.
- There is no evidence that sanctuary policies lead to greater cooperation with local law enforcement to solve crimes.

Conflict with/Impedes Federal Law

- The Constitution grants the federal government supreme and exclusive power over immigration.
- Federal law clearly states under what circumstances a person may legally reside in the US.
- It is a federal crime to “encourage” or “induce” illegal aliens to enter, remain, or work in the US; it is also a federal crime to “conceal, harbor or shield [them] from detection.” These bills appear to do both.
- State and local agencies work all the time with other federal law enforcement agencies such as the US Marshals and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives. Immigration is no different and should not be treated differently.

Sends the Wrong Message

- Rewards illegal behavior
- Insults legal immigrants who have spent time, money and effort to come the right way

Encourage More Illegal Immigration

- States that offer benefits to illegal aliens become priority destinations and magnets for illegal immigration.