



AILA recommends VOTE NO on Amendment 1948, Stop Dangerous Sanctuary Cities Act

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AILA recommends that Senators vote no on Amendment 1948 offered by Senator Toomey, the Stop Dangerous Sanctuary Cities Act. This is a debate about protecting Dreamers, not an opportunity for Senators to score political points by introducing divisive amendments. Furthermore, the Stop Dangerous Sanctuary Cities Act would not help local law enforcement keep their communities safe, but would instead undermine public safety. Likely unconstitutional, the amendment offers extreme measures that are contrary to American values of ensuring due process as guaranteed by the Constitution. These bills take an enforcement-only approach that is not only costly to American taxpayers but also ineffective and unworkable.

Amendment 1948 is a political ploy that does not address protections for Dreamers.

- Senators should focus on passing commonsense legislation that permanently protect Dreamers, like the bipartisan, bicameral Dream Act (S. 1615/H.R. 3440), and not get distracted by broader legislation that would fundamentally betray American values as a nation of immigrants.

Amendment 1948 will not improve public safety.

- Amendment 1948 would undermine local policing efforts designed to foster trust between police and residents in order to root out crime.
- Amendment 1948 would punish localities by withholding millions of dollars in federal infrastructure, economic development and public housing grants that bolster struggling low income communities and are unrelated to crime prevention.
- Amendment 1948 seeks to insulate rogue officers like Sheriff Joe Arpaio who have used detainers and immigration authority as way to pursue abusive, discriminatory tactics aimed at immigrant communities.
- Amendment 1948 embodies an enforcement-only, mass deportation approach and attempts to deputize local law enforcement officials to arrest undocumented immigrants.
- LEA entanglement in federal immigration enforcement invites racial profiling – intended or otherwise – which violates the Constitution’s core promise of equal protection under the law. Sanctuary city policies promote constitutional policing practices.

ICE can and does enforce immigration law in every part of the country.

- No state or locality has adopted —or could adopt—a policy that stops ICE from enforcing federal immigration laws. There are no cities where immigration enforcement has been suspended.
- ICE already has access to information about every single person who is arrested and fingerprinted, even in jurisdictions that have adopted “sanctuary” policies. It is up to ICE to take action on that information. And if they have grounds for an arrest warrant issued by a judge, they should obtain one.