



## MAJOR CITIES CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

June 26, 2017

The Honorable Bob Goodlatte  
2309 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John Conyers  
2426 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Goodlatte and Ranking Member Conyers:

Preventing crime and protecting the public are the top priorities of Chiefs and Sheriffs across the land. For this reason, we regret that the police departments from all major metropolitan areas in the Nation must oppose H.R. 3003, the “No Sanctuary for Criminals Act”. While we respect and support the intentions of the authors, we feel that public safety is better served without this legislation.

We are committed to continued enforcement against criminal violators, regardless of immigration status. Individuals who commit criminal acts, regardless of their citizenship status should not find safe harbor from their criminal violations of the law within any major city. We condemn the release of violent and serious repeat offenders who have entered the United States illegally, over and over again.

We are guided by these principles:

- Immigration enforcement laws or practices must be nationally based, consistent, and fully funded by the Federal Government. Immigration is a Federal policy issue between the United States Government and other countries, not a State or local responsibility.
- Any initiative concerning the enforcement of immigration laws should not be at the detriment or reduction directly or indirectly of any current federal funding or programs focused on assisting local police agencies with local policing or homeland security activities.

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- Congress must not threaten to withhold public safety funding as a means to coerce local agencies to carry out tasks for Federal agencies, a position upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court.
- We respectfully ask that Congress leave to local government the decisions related to how local law enforcement agencies allocate their resources, direct their workforce, and define the duties of their employees. The role of local police officers relating to immigration enforcement should be left to local government.

While we do not seek to obstruct ICE, we do not feel that Congress should attempt to compel local police to become immigration officers. A working partnership with ICE must have boundaries and Congress should respect those limitations on our role in immigration enforcement.

We urge you and your colleagues reconsider your direction and adopt a different path to the same goals. As the officials responsible for public safety in every major metropolitan area, we look to you for leadership and a bipartisan resolution to the ongoing debate over immigration enforcement.

We know that you share with us the same goals - to prevent crime and protect the communities we are sworn to serve.

Sincerely,



Chief J. Thomas Manger  
Montgomery County Police Department  
President  
Major Cities Chiefs Association