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15
16 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
17 **EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**
18

19 THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

20 Plaintiff,

21 v.

22 THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA; EDMUND
GERALD BROWN JR., Governor of
23 California, in his official capacity; and
XAVIER BECERRA, Attorney General of
24 California, in his official capacity,

25 Defendants.
26
27
28

Case No. 2:18-cv-00490-JAM-KJN

**[PROPOSED] BRIEF OF AMICI
CURIAE 25 CALIFORNIA COUNTIES,
CITIES, AND LOCAL OFFICIALS IN
SUPPORT OF DEFENDANTS'
OPPOSITION TO PLAINTIFF'S
MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY
INJUNCTION (ECF NO. 74)**

Judge: Honorable John A. Mendez

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

	Page
INTEREST OF AMICI CURIAE	1
ARGUMENT	3
I. SB 54 PROMOTES PUBLIC SAFETY, HEALTH, AND WELFARE.....	3
II. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT’S PREFERRED AGENDA FOR LOCAL IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT UNDERMINES PUBLIC SAFETY BY DISCOURAGING POLICE-COMMUNITY COOPERATION AND CIVIC PARTICIPATION.....	5
A. State and Local Control of Law Enforcement Is Integral to Promoting Public Safety and Fostering Trust Between Immigrant Communities and Police	5
B. State and Local Sanctuary Policies Promote the Health and Welfare of California Residents.....	10
1. Sanctuary policies support improved public health.	11
2. Jurisdictions adopting sanctuary policies have stronger economies.....	12
CONCLUSION	13

TABLE OF AUTHORITIES

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

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(continued)**

	Page(s)
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	
11	
12	
13	
14	
15	
16	
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23	
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	Page(s)
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2	
3	
4	
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6	
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9	
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12	
13	
14	
15	
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(continued)**

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5
6
7
8
9
10
11
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16
17
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INTEREST OF AMICI CURIAE

1
2 State and local jurisdictions bear primary responsibility for ensuring the safety and well-
3 being of their communities. This principle is neither novel nor controversial; it is at the core of
4 our federalist system of government. In exercising their sovereign duty to promote public safety,
5 states and local governments throughout the United States—including Amici California
6 Localities,¹ which include 25 counties, cities, and local officials throughout California,
7 representing 18,000,000 residents—have adopted laws and policies reflecting their careful
8 judgment of what policies and practices best serve their communities. These communities hail
9 from all corners of the state, including counties of over 10 million people and cities of under
10 20,000.

- 11 • The City of Oakland is the largest city in Alameda County.² Roughly 27.3% of the City’s
12 420,000 residents are foreign born,³ and the greater Oakland metropolitan area is home to
13 approximately 240,000 undocumented immigrants.⁴ Oakland seeks to ensure that its
14 diverse communities can participate equally in civic life and access city services designed
15 to ensure the public’s safety and health without fear that coming into contact with local
16 government will result in deportation. In furtherance of these goals, the City of Oakland

17
18 ¹ Amici California Localities represent local jurisdictions and officials that have taken steps to
19 improve public health and safety in their communities by encouraging immigrant communities to
20 interact with local government employees. While some Amici identify as “cities of refuge,”
21 “sanctuary cities,” or “sanctuary jurisdictions,” many do not use a specific term to describe their
22 local policies. All Amici California Localities have taken certain efforts to allocate their local
23 law enforcement resources to community safety and crime prevention, rather than enforcement of
24 federal civil immigration law, or have otherwise adopted policies that support community safety
25 by engaging with immigrant communities. For the purposes of this brief, the phrases “Amici
26 California Localities” or “local jurisdictions” will be used to collectively refer to this diverse
27 array of localities, which are listed at the end of this brief.

28 ² *Quick Facts: Oakland City*, U.S. Census Bureau (July 1, 2016), *available at* <https://goo.gl/2kHE3n>.

³ *See Advanced Search: Place of Birth By Nativity and Citizenship Status – 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates*, U.S. Census Bureau, *available at* <https://goo.gl/EcKh5P> (last visited Apr. 20, 2018).

⁴ *Estimates of unauthorized immigrant population, by metro area, 2014*, Pew Research Center (Feb. 3, 2017), *available at* <https://goo.gl/ZwBgda>.

1 has been a City of Refuge since July 8, 1986, and has repeatedly reaffirmed that status and
2 its commitment to its immigrant communities.⁵

3 • The County of Los Angeles is the largest county in the nation, with over 10.2 million
4 residents.⁶ Nearly 3.5 million immigrants, comprising 35% of the County's total
5 population, call Los Angeles County home.⁷ Additionally, 57% of children in Los
6 Angeles have a noncitizen parent.⁸ As in Oakland, immigrants are an integral part of Los
7 Angeles County's economic and cultural life, interwoven into the County's social fabric
8 as neighbors, family, and friends. Immigrants are integral to our community; whether at
9 school, on the job, in church, or at home, they are indistinguishable from their native-born
10 family members and neighbors who have been granted citizenship or legal permanent
11 residence. By creating its Office of Immigrant Affairs and pursuing immigration-focused
12 programs and policies, Los Angeles County has made engagement, integration, and
13 cooperation with its immigrant communities a top priority.

14 • Home to a multi-cultural population of over 1.9 million residents, the County of Santa
15 Clara is the most populous county in Northern California. In recent years, the County's
16 immigrant population has grown significantly and now comprises approximately 38% of
17 the region's total population, the highest share since the late 1800s. The County of Santa
18 Clara is responsible for providing essential services and safety-net programs, including
19 health care, law enforcement, emergency planning and response services, care for the
20 youth and elderly, and many other critical social services to *all* residents, regardless of
21 immigration status. The County of Santa Clara has adopted policies and practices that
22

23 ⁵ Oakland Resolution No. 63950, adopted July 8, 1986; Oakland Resolution No. 86498, adopted
24 November 29, 2016; Oakland Resolution No. 87036, adopted January 16, 2018.

25 ⁶ *Facts About Los Angeles*, Discover Los Angeles, 2017 LA Tourism & Convention Board (Dec.
26 15, 2017), available at <https://goo.gl/KtVZWn>.

27 ⁷ *Los Angeles*, Center for the Study of Immigration Integration, USC Dornsife College Of Letters,
28 Arts and Sciences, available at <https://goo.gl/wzroXy> (last visited May 16, 2018).

⁸ Motion by Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, *Protecting Los Angeles County Residents Regardless of
Immigration Status* (Dec. 6, 2016), at 1, available at <https://goo.gl/oNczH5>.

1 reflect the judgment of its elected officials and law enforcement agencies that assistance
2 with federal civil immigration enforcement would undermine the County’s ability to fight
3 crime and make the entire community less safe.

4
5 This litigation involves the federal government’s challenge to three California laws,
6 including SB 54,⁹ which aim to promote public safety by limiting state and local entanglement
7 with federal immigration enforcement. SB 54, also known as the California Values Act,
8 manifests a commitment to integrating immigrants into communities and promoting public safety,
9 public health, and a robust economy throughout the State. Amici share the State’s goals of
10 protecting the well-being of all Californians and offer a critical perspective on how state and local
11 jurisdictions are best equipped to address the unique needs of their communities.

12 SB 54 protects the State’s residents in a manner *consistent with* federal law. The careful
13 delineation of state and federal powers is precisely what the Constitution requires, and what
14 Amici California Localities’ considered judgment respects. And, as extensive research studies
15 show, jurisdictions adopting policies similar to those of the State of California and Amici—in
16 which scarce local law enforcement resources are allocated to investigation of crimes, rather than
17 enforcement of federal civil immigration laws—have safer, healthier, and more economically
18 resilient communities.

19 **ARGUMENT**

20 **I. SB 54 PROMOTES PUBLIC SAFETY, HEALTH, AND WELFARE**

21 The United States Supreme Court has long emphasized that local control over the health
22 and safety of residents ensures that matters “‘concern[ing] the lives, liberties, and properties of
23 the people’” are determined “by governments more local and more accountable than a distant
24 federal bureaucracy.” *Nat’l Fed’n of Indep. Bus. v. Sebelius*, 567 U.S. 519, 536 (2012) (quoting
25 *The Federalist* No. 45, at 293 (J. Madison)). Enshrined in the Constitution and a core part of
26 American democracy ever since, such local control respects the “historic police powers of the

27 _____
28 ⁹ Cal. Gov’t Code § 7284 *et seq.* (hereinafter “SB 54”).

1 States.” *Rice v. Santa Fe Elevator Corp.*, 331 U.S. 218, 230 (1947); *see also United States v.*
2 *Morrison*, 529 U.S. 598, 618 (2000) (noting there is “no better example of the police power,
3 which the Founders denied the National Government and reposed in the States, than the
4 suppression of violent crime and vindication of its victims”). Local governments and officials
5 have “wide discretion in determining [their] own public policy and what measures are necessary
6 for [their] own protection and properly to promote the safety, peace, and good order of [their]
7 people.” *Terrace v. Thompson*, 263 U.S. 197, 217 (1923). California counties and cities likewise
8 possess the power to enforce “all local, police, sanitary, and other ordinances and regulations not
9 in conflict with general laws.” Cal. Const. art. XI, § 7.

10 SB 54 fits well within these established constitutional principles, aiming to “ensure
11 effective policing, to protect the safety, well-being, and constitutional rights of the people of
12 California, and to direct the state’s limited resources to matters of greatest concern to state and
13 local governments.” Cal. Gov’t Code § 7284.2(f). Exercising its police powers over public
14 safety, the State determined that indiscriminately devoting local resources to federal civil
15 immigration enforcement is detrimental to community trust and, therefore, to public safety. *See*
16 *generally id.* § 7284.2(a)-(e) (detailing legislative findings that building trust with immigrant
17 communities furthers law enforcement aims, that “entangling” state agencies with federal
18 immigration enforcement diverts local resources and blurs lines of accountability, and that state
19 and local participation would create constitutional concerns). California’s laws reflect sound
20 public policy: here, the State concluded, as had many California localities prior to the passage of
21 SB 54 (including those represented by Amici), that local involvement in federal immigration
22 enforcement would be harmful to the safety and well-being of its residents, including the nearly
23 2.6 million undocumented immigrants who reside and participate in communities throughout
24 California.¹⁰

25
26
27 ¹⁰ *See* Joseph Hayes and Laura Hill, *Undocumented Immigrants in California*, Public Policy
28 Institute of California (March 2017), available at <https://goo.gl/41CVyK>.

1 The federal government’s attempt to pressure California—and localities within the state—
2 to comply with its preferred immigration enforcement agenda harms Amici in two distinct ways:
3 First, by eroding community trust in law enforcement, thereby reducing community cooperation
4 and making it more difficult for local sheriffs and police officers to effectively protect the public;
5 and second, by preventing immigrant communities from participating in our economies and
6 communities.

7 **II. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT’S PREFERRED AGENDA FOR LOCAL**
8 **IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT UNDERMINES PUBLIC SAFETY BY**
9 **DISCOURAGING POLICE-COMMUNITY COOPERATION AND CIVIC**
10 **PARTICIPATION**

11 **A. State and Local Control of Law Enforcement Is Integral to Promoting Public**
12 **Safety and Fostering Trust Between Immigrant Communities and Police**

13 Law enforcement officials throughout California and the nation agree that building
14 community trust is integral to promoting public safety. The State of California, like many Amici
15 California Localities, has acted on that principle, enacting laws—particularly SB 54—aimed at
16 encouraging cooperation and participation in the law enforcement and criminal justice system to
17 promote justice for all.

18 Amici recognize the importance of building and maintaining trust between police and
19 immigrants. If immigrants fear that interaction with law enforcement may lead to deportation for
20 themselves or a loved one, they are less likely to assist law enforcement as witnesses and/or
21 victims, and public safety will suffer.¹¹ These concerns are not theoretical.¹² Regardless of
22 immigrations status, all community residents serve an important role in assisting local law

23 ¹¹ See, e.g., Craig E. Farrell, Jr., et al., *M.C.C. Immigration Committee Recommendations For*
24 *Enforcement of Immigration Laws by Local Policy Agencies*, Major Cities Chiefs Ass’n (2006)
25 (“Immigration enforcement by local police would likely negatively affect and undermine the level
26 of trust and cooperation between local police and immigrant communities . . .”).

27 ¹² In a similar vein, maintaining trust between employers and employees is critical to ensuring
28 that immigrants’ rights are protected in the workplace. As the Legislature recognized in
analyzing AB 450, the threat of immigration raids in the workplace “decreased the likelihood that
workers will report labor violations or exercise workplace rights.” See State of Cal. Assembly
Comm. on Judiciary, *Employment Regulation: Immigration Worksite Enforcement Issues*, A.B.
450 (Apr. 19, 2017), at 5.

1 enforcement and the justice system—state and local governments should not be forced to
 2 participate in a federal immigration enforcement agenda that ignores community safety and well-
 3 being. Amici’s collective experience makes clear that trust between law enforcement and the
 4 communities they are sworn to protect is weakened when local law enforcement officers are
 5 viewed as de facto immigration enforcers.

6 Jurisdictions with sanctuary policies are on average more—not less—safe. Empirics
 7 confirm that jurisdictions with policies limiting their participation in immigration enforcement
 8 have comparatively lower crime rates than those without such policies. The Center for American
 9 Progress found that counties with sanctuary policies had statistically significantly lower crime
 10 than other counties—on average 35.5 fewer crimes committed per 10,000 people.¹³ Another
 11 study found that higher immigrant concentrations were associated with reduced homicide rates
 12 and reduced robbery rates.¹⁴ In cities that limited local enforcement of federal immigration laws,
 13 this correlation was even stronger.¹⁵ Other studies have found that certain cities with the lowest
 14 levels of targeted immigration enforcement have statistically significant reductions in larceny (by
 15 2–3%) and motor vehicle theft (by 5-6%).¹⁶ Indeed, contrary to the federal government’s
 16 rhetoric,¹⁷ immigrants are in fact *less likely* to commit crimes and be incarcerated than American-
 17 born individuals; specifically, undocumented immigrants are 44% less likely to be incarcerated
 18

19 ¹³ Tom Wong, *The effect of sanctuary policies on crime and the economy*, Center for American
 20 Progress (Jan. 26, 2017), available at <https://goo.gl/UFUtnk>.

21 ¹⁴ Christopher Lyons, et al., *Neighborhood immigration, violence, and city-level immigrant*
 22 *political opportunities*, 78 Am. Sociological Rev. 604, 615–17, 620 (2013). The National
 23 Neighborhood Crime Study (NNCS) compiled crime and sociodemographic data for census tracts
 24 in a representative sample of large United States cities for 2000 and was funded by the National
 Science Foundation. See Ruth D. Peterson and Lauren J. Krivo, *National Neighborhood Crime*
Study (NNCS), Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (2000), available at
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25 ¹⁵ Lyons *supra* n.14, at 617.

26 ¹⁶ Elina Treyger, et al., *Immigration Enforcement, Policing, and Crime*, 13 Criminology 285,
 305–06 (2014) (for the list of 335 included cities, see Appendix 1).

27 ¹⁷ See, e.g., Salvador Rizzo, *Trump’s Claim that Immigrants Bring ‘Tremendous Crime’ Is Still*
 28 *Wrong*, Wash. Post (Jan. 18, 2018), available at <https://goo.gl/5NTnqS>.

1 compared with native-born citizens.¹⁸ Additionally, a recent longitudinal analysis between 1990
2 and 2014 analyzed the effect of unauthorized immigration on violence and concluded that
3 undocumented immigration is generally associated with decreasing violent crime.¹⁹

4 These studies are not flukes, nor are their results accidental. When large populations of
5 undocumented immigrants “fear[] that interaction with police leads to arrest and deportation, they
6 will be reluctant to report crimes, make statements, or testify in court. This chilling effect leaves
7 cities less safe for everyone.”²⁰ Sanctuary policies allow local governments to create a “spiral of
8 trust” that fosters communications between government officials and immigrants, reduces social
9 isolation and cynicism toward government, and increases neighborhood attachment.²¹ This social
10 cohesion and “collective efficacy” has been associated with reduced violence and greater
11 stability, which makes communities generally safer for all.²²

12 It is well-documented that as immigration enforcement and the threat of deportation
13 increase, the likelihood of undocumented immigrants reporting crimes decreases significantly.²³
14 In a 2013 survey, for example, 67% of undocumented individuals reported that they were less
15 likely to offer information to law enforcement as a witness if they feared officers would inquire
16 about their or others’ immigration status.²⁴ Seventy percent reported being less likely to contact
17

18 ¹⁸ Michelangelo Landgrave and Alex Nowrasteh, *Criminal Immigrants: Their Numbers,*
19 *Demographics, and Countries of Origin*, CATO Institute, Immigration Research and Policy Brief
20 No. 1 (Mar. 15, 2017), at 2, available at <https://goo.gl/PqQtmR>.

21 ¹⁹ Michael Light and Ty Miller, *Does Undocumented Immigration Increase Violent Crime?*,
22 *Criminology* (2018), available at <https://goo.gl/YJbs2V>.

23 ²⁰ Angela S. Garcia, *The Sanctuary Cities Debate*, University of Chicago, 23 *SSA Magazine* 1
24 (2016), available at <https://goo.gl/tnZU2f>.

25 ²¹ Lyons, *supra* n.14, at 609–10.

26 ²² Sampson, Robert, et al., *Neighborhoods and Violent Crime: A Multilevel Study of Collective*
27 *Efficacy*, *Science Magazine* (Aug. 15, 1997), at 1, available at <https://goo.gl/BgMim4>.

28 ²³ See, e.g., Chuck Wexler, *Police chiefs across the country support sanctuary cities because they*
keep crime down, *L.A. Times* (Mar. 6, 2017), available at <https://goo.gl/Fut52T>.

²⁴ Nik Theodore, *Insecure Communities: Latino Perceptions of Police Involvement in*
Immigration Enforcement, Univ. of Ill. Chicago (May 2013), at 5–6, available at
<https://goo.gl/wK3O7o>.

1 law enforcement authorities *even if they were victims of a crime*.²⁵ In a survey conducted by the
2 Police Foundation, responding law enforcement personnel and public officials widely reported
3 that aggressive enforcement of immigration law would decrease community trust of police (74%
4 of respondents), trust between community residents (70%), and reporting of crime victimization
5 (85%) and criminal activity (83%).²⁶ Moreover, a more recent Police Foundation survey showed
6 that more than 70% of police chiefs reported that immigrants in their communities are somewhat
7 or much less likely to contact law enforcement when they are victims of or witnesses to crime.²⁷
8 And a 2018 study conducted by the National Immigrant Women’s Advocacy Project found that
9 approximately 40% of the 232 law enforcement officials who responded confirmed that “federal
10 immigration policies have affected their relationships with immigrant communities in 2017
11 compared with 2016, and 71% said that because immigrants face barriers to engaging with law
12 enforcement, officers were less able to hold criminals accountable.”²⁸

13 Reports from California since President Trump took office are stark. In the first three
14 months of 2017, reports of sexual assault among the Latino population in the City of Los Angeles
15 declined 25%, and domestic-violence reports dropped 10%.²⁹ At the same time, reporting among
16 non-Latino victims was virtually unchanged.³⁰

17 ²⁵ *Id.*; see also Randy Capps, et al., *Delegation and Divergence: A Study of 287(g) State and*
18 *Local Immigration Enforcement*, Migration Policy Institute (Jan. 2011), at 43 (study that looked
19 at the impact of 287(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act on 7 counties and found that in
20 four of the counties that were involved in traffic operations, “community respondents were likely
21 to report that immigrants were venturing into public places with less frequency, failing to report
crimes or interact with police, interacting less with schools and other institutions, patronizing
local businesses less often, and changing their driving patterns.”).

22 ²⁶ Anita Khashu, *The Role of Local Police: Striking a Balance Between Immigration Enforcement*
and Civil Liberties, Police Foundation (Apr. 2009), at 24, available at <https://goo.gl/DoKdWs>.

23 ²⁷ Scott H. Decker, et al., *Immigration and Local Policing: Results from a National Survey of Law*
Enforcement Executive, Police Foundation (June 2015), at 174, available at
24 <https://goo.gl/WsPwsh>.

25 ²⁸ Bernice Yeung, *Police: Immigration Policies Making It Harder to Catch Criminals*,
RevealNews.Org (Feb. 5, 2018), available at <https://goo.gl/hNMaBW>.

26 ²⁹ See Sarah Stillman, *When Deportation Is a Death Sentence*, *The New Yorker* (Jan. 15, 2018),
27 available at <https://goo.gl/4s1P6N>.

28 ³⁰ *Id.*

1 The DOJ itself has previously recognized what these studies make clear—that federal
2 entanglement in state and local law enforcement negatively affects community safety. In 2015, a
3 DOJ Task Force released a report that recommended “[d]ecoupl[ing] federal immigration
4 enforcement from routine local policing” in an effort to build relationships of trust with
5 immigrant communities.³¹ The DOJ has further described how “[c]ultural and language barriers,
6 immigrants’ fear of deportation or detention, and immigrants’ mistrust of law enforcement are
7 some of the factors that can challenge police-immigrant relations” to the detriment of public
8 safety.³²

9 In reaching these conclusions, the study drew directly from state and local experiences
10 that show fear of deportation leads to underreporting of crime, failure to access needed
11 government services, and refusal to cooperate with criminal prosecutions.³³ Even for some
12 immigrant victims who had the courage to report crime, the fear of deportation ultimately
13 interfered with their cooperation in prosecutions.³⁴ As a result, the Law Enforcement
14 Immigration Task Force, comprised of many state and local law enforcement officials from
15 across the country, determined that state and local law enforcement “can best serve [their]
16 communities by leaving the enforcement of immigration laws to the federal government.”³⁵

17 The State of California has aimed to make its communities safer by cultivating the trust of
18 all residents—citizens and non-citizens alike—through limiting local entanglement with
19 immigration enforcement. As explained above, sound public policy and longstanding Supreme
20 Court precedent protects—and indeed endorses—state and local governments’ exercise of such
21

22 ³¹ Final Report of the President’s Task Force on 21st Century Policing, President’s Task Force on
23 21st Century Policing, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (May 2015), *available at*
<https://goo.gl/SJXSaL>.

24 ³² Community Policing Dispatch, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (Feb. 2013),
25 *available at* <https://goo.gl/RfdtXC>.

26 ³³ *Id.*

27 ³⁴ *Id.*

28 ³⁵ *See* Letter from Law Enforcement Immigration Task Force to Congress (June 28, 2017),
available at <https://goo.gl/Pn94ai>.

1 discretion when it comes to the health and safety of their residents.³⁶

2 **B. State and Local Sanctuary Policies Promote the Health and Welfare of**
 3 **California Residents**

4 In addition to promoting public safety, states and localities have relied upon their broad
 5 police powers to implement policies which, in lawmakers' considered judgment, protect public
 6 health and improve the public welfare. *See, e.g., Gonzales v. Oregon*, 546 U.S. 243, 300 (2006)
 7 (protection of public health and safety is generally enforced through state and local police
 8 powers). Indeed, like the State itself,³⁷ numerous counties, cities, and towns in California have
 9 adopted "sanctuary" laws or policies to promote public health, safety, and well-being in their
 10 respective jurisdictions.³⁸ Social science confirms the positive impacts of sanctuary policies on
 11 communities as soundly based in the best interests of California cities and counties' public health
 12 and economic welfare.

13
 14 _____
 15 ³⁶ To be sure, the federal government is fully aware that effective community policing requires
 16 local control over law enforcement policy decisions. In practice, however, the federal
 17 government supports state and local governments' exercise of such discretion when it proves
 18 politically expedient. Indeed, just last year, in an attempt to justify his decision to rescind consent
 19 decrees between the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division and local police departments—a
 20 decision Amici in no way condone—Attorney General Sessions touted the importance of local
 21 control over law enforcement decisions, writing that addressing rising crime rates and securing
 22 public safety "are, first and foremost, tasks for state, local, and tribal enforcement," and that
 23 "[l]ocal control and local accountability are necessary for effective local policing. The federal
 24 government does not manage, nor does it set policy for local law enforcement agencies."
 25 Memorandum for Heads of Department Components and United States Attorneys: Supporting
 26 Federal, State, Local, and Tribal Law Enforcement, Off. of Att'y Gen. (Mar. 31, 2017), *available*
 27 *at* <https://goo.gl/xSJsvs>. This lawsuit turns that position on its head.

28 ³⁷ For example, the legislative findings of the California Values Act explain that a "relationship of
 trust" between immigrants and state and local agencies is central to the "public safety of the
 people of California" and is threatened by entanglement with immigration enforcement, with the
 result that "immigrant community members fear approaching police when they are victims of,
 and witnesses to, crimes, seeking basic health services, or attending school." §§ 7284.2(b)-(d).

³⁸ As used herein, "sanctuary laws" or "sanctuary policies" encompasses the broad range of
 policies, laws, or regulations that state or local governments may implement, consistent with the
 police powers reserved to them under the Constitution, aimed at limiting local entanglement with
 federal civil immigration enforcement efforts and serving to promote public health, safety, and
 well-being throughout their communities.

1 **1. Sanctuary policies support improved public health.**

2 Sanctuary policies support public health and safety goals by ensuring access to and
3 encouraging utilization of basic government services, which improves public health outcomes.
4 The disparities in access to care and care utilization based on lawful immigration status are well
5 documented.³⁹ Undocumented immigrants and their family members are significantly less likely
6 to utilize government services, including health care, due in large part to fear that their
7 interactions with healthcare providers or government entities will lead to deportation.

8 For localities that provide health care and other social services through public health
9 departments and safety-net hospitals, like Amici California Localities, sanctuary policies are one
10 way to address these disparities.⁴⁰ To address the fears that often keep undocumented immigrants
11 from seeking healthcare, providers in localities with sanctuary policies use “buffering” strategies,
12 such as (i) advertising “safe” spaces where information regarding immigration status will not be
13 collected in a manner inconsistent with state or federal law, or (ii) having individual
14 conversations to reassure applicants that they will not be asked about their status except as
15 required by state or federal law.⁴¹ Such strategies allow healthcare providers to foster trust with
16 their patients and provide much needed medical care to a traditionally underserved segment of the
17 community.

18 Public health strategies, by their nature, are only successful when they address the needs
19 of *entire* communities. As history demonstrates, the exclusion of any segment of the community
20 from screening services related to sexual health, disease prevention, or prenatal care can have
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23 ³⁹ Helen B. Marrow, *The power of local autonomy: expanding health care to unauthorized*
24 *immigrants in San Francisco*, *Ethnic and Racial Studies* (2012), at 73; see also Aboii, Sheyda,
25 *Undocumented Immigrants and the Inclusive Health Policies of Sanctuary Cities*, Harvard Public
26 Health Review (2014) (noting that undocumented immigrants are less likely to be insured, and
that few undocumented immigrants have a primary care physician or first point-of-contact in the
healthcare system aside from the emergency room.)

27 ⁴⁰ Marrow, *supra* n.40, at 73.

28 ⁴¹ *Id.* at 79.

1 significant consequences on the greater community.⁴² By improving access and utilization of
2 healthcare services to undocumented immigrants, sanctuary policies have salutary effects on the
3 health and well-being of the community as a whole.⁴³

4 **2. Jurisdictions adopting sanctuary policies have stronger economies.**

5 Research strongly suggests that “[w]hen local law enforcement focuses on keeping
6 communities safe, rather than becoming entangled in federal immigration enforcement efforts,
7 communities are safer and community members stay more engaged in the local economy. This in
8 turn brings benefits to individual households, communities, counties, and the economy as a
9 whole.”⁴⁴ A notable study by the Center for American Progress found that “economies are
10 stronger in sanctuary counties—from higher median household income, less poverty, and less
11 reliance on public assistance to higher labor force participation, higher employment-to-population
12 ratios, and lower unemployment.”⁴⁵ On average, median household income is \$4,353 higher in
13 counties with sanctuary policies or laws than in counties without such policies.⁴⁶

14 State and local governments’ attempts to improve economic status for their residents
15 through limited immigration enforcement is a guiding principle of the general police power—the
16 power for jurisdictions to decide which policies and practices will improve the lives of their
17

18 ⁴² One example includes the plague outbreaks that swept through San Francisco at the beginning
19 of the twentieth century. Public health officials discriminated against residents of San
20 Francisco’s Chinatown district during the epidemic abatement, which led to a larger health crisis
21 than had healthcare officials adopted a public health strategy addressing the needs of all
22 communities. *See generally* Jacqueline Fox, *Zika and the Failure to Act Under the Police Power*,
49 Conn. L. Rev. 1211, 1222, 1224 n.51 (May 2017); Judith Walzer Leavitt, *Chinatown*, N.Y.
Times (Apr. 27, 2003), *available at* <https://goo.gl/s1Ce4s>.

23 ⁴³ Moreover, emerging research suggests that undocumented immigration in communities may be
24 associated *directly* with reductions in public health concerns. For example, a recent study found
25 that increased undocumented immigration was associated with statistically significant decreases
in drug arrests, drug overdose deaths, and DUI arrests at the state level. Michael L. Light, et al.,
Undocumented Immigration, Drug Problems, and Driving Under the Influence in the United
States, 1990-2014, Am. J. Public Health (July 20, 2017).

26 ⁴⁴ Wong, *supra* n.13.

27 ⁴⁵ *Id.*

28 ⁴⁶ *Id.*

1 residents and the safety of their communities.

2 **CONCLUSION**

3 State and local governments are duty-bound to promote the safety and welfare of *all*
4 *residents* in their communities, regardless of immigration status. As the Supreme Court has
5 recognized, state and local governments are uniquely suited for the task given their intimate
6 knowledge of and close connection to their diverse communities. Here, California exercised its
7 sovereign duty to promote public safety and well-being. The Court should reject the federal
8 government’s attempt to prevent the state from “exercising [its] own judgment in an area to which
9 States lay claim by right of history and expertise.” *United States v. Lopez*, 514 U.S. 549, 583
10 (1995) (Kennedy, J., concurring). Consistent with long-standing precedent and constitutional
11 principles, it is state and local governments that are best able and most accountable to determine
12 the policies that will best protect their communities, not the federal government. After all, they
13 know their communities’ needs and how best to serve them.

14 For all these reasons, Amici California Localities support the State of California’s
15 opposition to the federal government’s motion for preliminary injunction and respectfully submit
16 that the motion should be denied.

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Respectfully submitted,

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