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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0503

November 3, 2023

The Honorable Karen Bass
Mayor of Los Angeles
200 N. Spring St. Room 303
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Mayor Karen Bass,

You recently wrote President Biden to request an additional \$5 billion in federal funding to deal with “high numbers” of “immigrants entering the United States via the Southwest border.” You rightly call the breakdown at our border a “federal crisis.” You also complain that your cities “continue to bear the brunt” of that crisis.

While your letter calls for a “coordinated entry and distribution process of newcomers,” notably absent is *any* mention of increased border security to limit the number of such newcomers who arrive without legal authorization. Even worse, you ignore the role your own jurisdictions have played in fueling the migrant crisis. While you now insist that this is a “federal” crisis that has disproportionately and unfairly burdened your local jurisdictions, four of five cities included in your letter have adopted formal “sanctuary” policies that directly interfere with the enforcement of federal immigration law.

As you know, the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act (IIRIRA) of 1996 clearly prohibits restricting communication between state or local entities and federal authorities in regard to a person’s immigration status. Unfortunately, over 200 cities, counties and states – including your own – have “sanctuary” laws or policies that do exactly that. They obstruct or forbid communication with ICE officials, directly violating this important federal statute. Such policies provide special protections for migrants who both entered the country illegally and have committed crimes while here.

Having directly interfered with federal immigration enforcement and invited illegal immigrants into your cities, without any apparent plan to deal with the predictable consequences, it takes some gall to now suggest my constituents and other American taxpayers should foot the bill – even as you keep your sanctuary policies in place.

I would like to bring your attention to a proposal I have introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives that, if enacted, will mitigate some of the shortcomings of the sanctuary cities model that has contributed to the migrant crisis. H.R. 4684, the No Sanctuary for Criminals Act, simply reinforces current requirements laid out in the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996. It clearly states the will of Congress is that (1) law enforcement and support services for immigrants in sanctuary cities are required to fully cooperate with the Department of Justice and Homeland Security, and (2) no local, State or Federal authority may interfere with their efforts to comply.

A copy of the bill and the bill summary are attached. I would greatly appreciate a letter of support for H.R. 4684.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "K. Kiley". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

Rep. Kevin Kiley
Member of Congress