June 28, 2017

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the 1.6 million members of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), I urge you to oppose the punitive and unnecessary No Sanctuary for Criminals Act (H.R. 3003) and its companion bill that increases penalties for certain immigrants (H.R. 3004). These bills together weaken the rights of immigrants, cut funding to vital state and local programs, and further criminalize immigrants.

H.R. 3003 and 3004 are deeply flawed pieces of legislation that would add chaos to an already broken immigration system when comprehensive reform is what is needed. The bills undermine state and local policing strategies that have worked well for many communities. Implementing this “one size fits all” approach, as proposed in these bills, jeopardizes the trust that diverse communities have placed in their police force and undermines federal grants that are aimed at helping law enforcement and that support the very programs needed to reduce crime.

H.R. 3003 forces communities to devote local resources to enforcing federal immigration law and penalizes them if they don’t comply. H.R. 3004 mandates increased penalties on immigrants for reentry, which could lead to a large increase in the prison population without additional resources. This would create new financial liability for federal, state, and local governments, that are already cash strapped, at a time when funding is urgently needed for investments in public safety, infrastructure and other vital community needs.

We urge the House to reject both H.R. 3003 and H.R. 3004.

Sincerely,

Scott Frey
Director of Federal Legislative Affairs

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