



AMERICAN
IMMIGRATION
LAWYERS
ASSOCIATION

2/4/25

The American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) urges members of Congress to vote **NO** on H.R. 32 the “No Bailout for Sanctuary Cities Act.” This bill targets cities that have set guidelines for how their law enforcement agencies interact with federal immigration enforcement. The bill will authorize the current administration to block federal funding to promote education, transportation, housing, food security, public health, and crime prevention across the United States. If enacted, this bill will undermine public safety and cause major disruptions in the critically needed services cities provide.

We recommend a NO vote for these reasons:

- The bill likely violates the Constitution’s 10th Amendment by requiring states and localities to expend, and thereby unlawfully “commandeering,” their resources to implement federal immigration policies.
- Penalizing localities that are providing basic services to immigrants will undermine public safety by chilling the reporting of crimes to local law enforcement authorities and distract them from law enforcement activities.
- The bill will impose immigration enforcement and screening functions on local officials who are not trained in immigration law. This will result in inconsistent implementation of federal immigration law by officials tasked with administering programs that have nothing to do with immigration such as the National School Lunch Program or Emergency Medicaid. The costs for such activities will be borne by states and localities.
- The bill’s objective of denying temporary services such as emergency healthcare and food to immigrants will hurt all Americans in communities across the nation.

Instead of making it more difficult for local jurisdictions to respond to their communities’ needs, Congress should be supporting them by properly funding federal immigration agencies to ensure the immigration system operates in a fair, efficient and orderly manner.

Instead of enacting laws that address public safety concerns, this bill will penalize States for acting in their residents’ best interests. **VOTE NO** on the “No Bailout for Sanctuary Cities Act.”

What is a sanctuary city?

There is no universal [definition](#) of a “sanctuary city,” but it is typically used to describe localities that define or limit how their employees will participate in federal immigration enforcement activities.

- Data shows cities with sanctuary policies [have lesser crime rates](#) than those that do not.

- No locality, regardless of local practice, can shield their residents from federal immigration enforcement activities that are done within the proper bounds of the law.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to AILA us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

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