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No Compassion for Citizens:

“Sanctuary Cities” Are Havens for Criminal Aliens

Proponents of sanctuary cities will argue that for the sake of compassion Texans ought to gladly welcome illegal aliens and their children. But what about compassion for legitimate tax paying citizens and legal immigrants? Who should the city councils and the Legislature serve? It should be the people who entrust them with public policy and with justice. Sanctuary-city-policies are not good for citizens because they foster a criminality that costs us safety and lives, and because they create an enormous fiscal burden for them and legal immigrants to bear.

Supporters of sanctuary cities falsely claim that illegal aliens benefits the economy because more people are buying and selling, thus, generating sales tax revenue for the state. But, this claim fails to recognize the difference of that revenue against the net fiscal burden illegal aliens costs taxpayers, a net difference of approximately \$10.8 billion annually, as of 2013.¹ The Federation of Americans for Immigration Reform (fairus.org) has researched the true costs of illegal immigration on Texas citizens, and the numbers ought to grab the attention of every teacher, nurse, parent, employee, and legal immigrant in the state.

Counting illegal aliens and their children, both U.S. and foreign born, FAIR estimates that 1.81 million illegal aliens reside in Texas as of January 2014, and the total net cost to the Texas taxpayer is \$10.8 billion annually. These costs include healthcare, education, and more. Unlike other estimates, it also includes the fiscal burdens funded through local taxation, which pays the most for the education system. Even with the tax contributions of illegal aliens, estimated at \$1.7 billion annually, Texans are paying \$8.5 billion annually to educate the children of other countries.

“It’s not about money,” some will argue, saying that we ought to lend a helping hand. But it’s not help that sanctuary cities give to their citizens: on top of huge fiscal burdens, such cities put their citizens in physical and financial peril.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement have reported the release of more than 347,000 convicted criminal aliens into our communities. Sanctuary cities are magnets for these criminals, whose crimes include homicide, terroristic threats, aggravated sexual assault, indecency with minors, aggravated assault, and more.²

The Center for Immigration Studies has reported that high levels of illegal aliens correlates to job-related identity theft, showing that 27 percent of identity theft in Texas is job-related. These stolen identities are used to create credit card debt, gain employment under pretenses, and swindle money through IRS tax returns. The citizens are then left with staggering debt, harassment from the IRS, and ruined credit histories.³

A sanctuary town in the movie *Comancheros* proved a haven for Comanches and gun smugglers that terrorized the region. Our sanctuary cities today are becoming safe havens for criminal aliens released by the Obama Administration. We’ve seen reported in the news the barbaric killings, home invasions, and sexual assaults that plague sanctuary cities, giving citizens real cause for fear of mortal danger. And the problem will not be solved by mere play acting on the political scene. Our policies must justly prosecute all crimes against society, sentencing perpetrators without showing favoritism based legal status. Sanctuary cities show that kind of favoritism, exhibiting little compassion for the interests of the citizens. **We have to abolish policies that create sanctuary cities and enact those policies, like an interstate compact for border security, that will effectively deter illegal entry into the country.**

¹Federation of Americans for Immigration Reform (January 2014), *The Fiscal Burden of Illegal Immigration on Texans: A Report by Jack Martin, Director of Special Projects*. Fair Horizon Press 25 Massachusetts Avenue, NW Suite 330, Washington, DC 20001, www.fairus.org

²Breitbart.com (2015) *More Than 347,000 Convicted Criminal Immigrants At Large in U.S.*
<http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2015/07/07/more-than-347000-convicted-criminal-immigrants-at-large-in-u-s/>

³Center for Immigration Studies, Mortensen, Robert W. (2009) *Illegal, but Not Undocumented: Identity Theft, Document Fraud, and Illegal Employment*. <http://cis.org/IdentityTheft>

