



July 23, 2015

Dear Representative:

Asian Americans Advancing Justice (Advancing Justice) is a national partnership of five non-profit, non-partisan organizations that work to advance the human and civil rights of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders AAPIs through advocacy, public policy, public education, and litigation. We are based in Washington D.C., Atlanta, Chicago, Los Angeles and San Francisco. We write to express our strong opposition to the Enforce the Law for Sanctuary Cities Act (H.R. 3009).

We are deeply saddened by the tragic death of Kathryn Steinle in San Francisco. As we seek to make sense of this tragic shooting and its implications, we must ensure we have all the facts and that we consider them carefully.

Unfortunately, H.R. 3009, which was introduced shortly after Ms. Steinle's death, is a reactive, harmful bill that would punish San Francisco and other cities that prioritize public safety and community trust over cooperation with federal immigration officials. H.R. 3009 would penalize the exercise of any local police discretion to limit inquiries into immigration status in any manner, and would strip certain funding from localities that attempt to balance multiple public safety considerations.

Mandating cooperation between local law enforcement and federal immigration officials will reduce confidence among our diverse and large immigrant communities in local law enforcement, thereby harming public safety for everyone. Cooperation will discourage victims and witnesses of crime from coming forward to assist local law enforcement for fear of being questioned about their status or worse. In addition, community members who may have very old convictions and have long since rehabilitated and are contributing members of the community will also be at risk of double punishment and separation from their families. Lastly, there are significant constitutional concerns about requiring local law enforcement to make status inquiries and/or detain individuals in the absence of judicial warrants.

H.R. 3009 and similar bills are knee-jerk reactions that attempt to scapegoat and criminalize the entire immigrant community based on the actions of a single accused individual. Advancing Justice urges you to reject this bill as shortsighted and misguided. We pledge to work with all

members of Congress who are committed to passing legislation that keeps families together, protects workers, and prioritizes due process and human rights. Thank you.

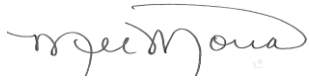
Sincerely,



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