



**FAIR** FEDERATION FOR AMERICAN IMMIGRATION REFORM

# Immigration

## REPORT

NOVEMBER 2017

### Inside...

ICE CRACKS DOWN ON SANCTUARY CITIES  
**PAGE 2**

GUESS WHO JUST BECAME THE FIRST 'SANCTUARY STATE'?  
**PAGE 4**

NEWS FROM OUR STATE AND LOCAL OPERATIONS  
**PAGE 5**

REFUGEE CAP LOWERED FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018  
**PAGE 5**

NEW FAIR POLL: MOST AMERICANS SUPPORT TRUMP'S IMMIGRATION POLICIES  
**PAGE 6**

WHY DEMOCRATS SHOULD GET ON BOARD WITH PROPOSED IMMIGRATION REFORMS  
**PAGE 7**



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## Administration Lays Out Immigration Reform Priorities

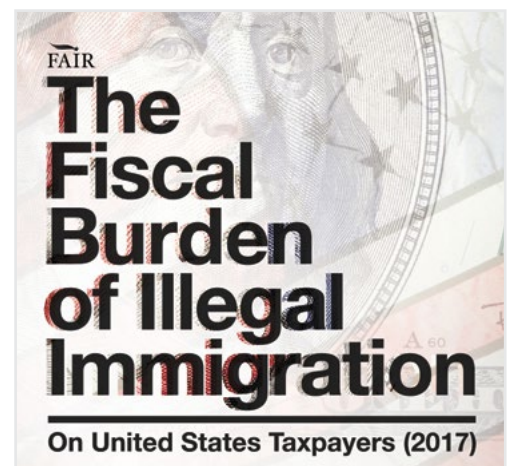
**O**n October 8, congressional Democrats found out what it will take to get permanent protections for the approximately 700,000 illegal aliens who currently enjoy temporary relief from deportation under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. A month earlier, the Trump administration announced its intent to phase out DACA – an unconstitutional amnesty program instituted by President Obama in 2012 – beginning March 2018.

Last month, the White House released its “Immigration Principles and Policies,” a detailed list of reforms the administration will require in exchange for considering permanent relief for DACA beneficiaries. The “principles and policies” document provides a comprehensive framework for the sort of true immigration reform that President Trump promised voters during his campaign.

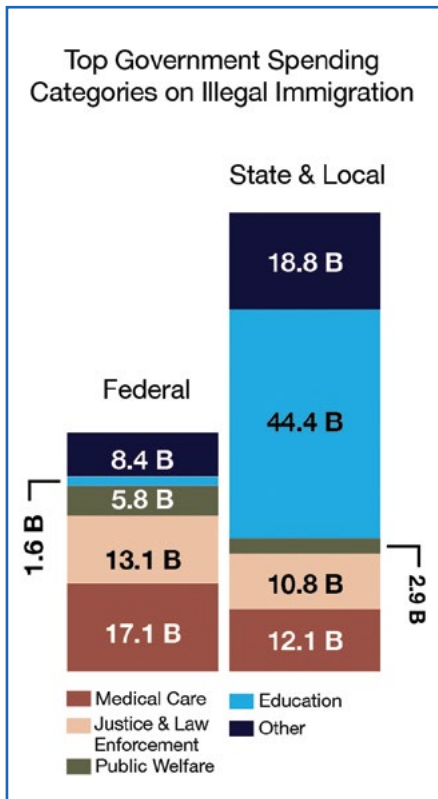
[PRIORITIES continues on page 3](#)

## FAIR Study: Illegal Immigration Costs YOU \$116 Billion a Year

**A** new FAIR study, *The Fiscal Burden of Illegal Immigration on United States Taxpayers*, finds that illegal immigration now represents a \$135 billion a year cost burden to U.S. taxpayers. Even accounting for an estimated \$19 billion a year that illegal aliens contribute in taxes, the net cost to the American public is about \$116 billion annually. This cost is based on a conservative estimate of 12.5 million illegal aliens and about 4.2 million U.S.-born (i.e. citizen) children of illegal aliens.



[COST STUDY continues on page 2](#)

COST STUDY *continued from page 1*

The report, which was released in late September, updates earlier cost estimates from 2013. Despite widely reported claims that illegal immigration is abating and that mass illegal immigration is no longer a concern, the new report indicates that the gross

annual costs of illegal immigration have increased by \$22 billion and the net annual costs by about \$16 billion over the past four years. On a per capita basis, illegal immigration represents a tax burden of approximately \$8,075 per illegal alien family member, a figure that is only slightly reduced (to about \$6,940) when taxes collected from illegal aliens are factored in.

The bulk of the fiscal burdens, an estimated \$89 billion, or about two-thirds of the costs, are borne by state and local governments. Federal costs associated with illegal immigration run about \$46 billion annually. Because the federal government is responsible for enforcement of immigration laws, its inability or refusal to exercise its duties represents the single largest unfunded mandate to state and local governments. State and local authorities bear a disproportional share of the costs as they collect only about \$3.5 billion of the estimated \$19 billion illegal aliens pay in taxes.

The findings of *The Fiscal Burden of Illegal Immigration on United States Taxpayers*, thoroughly contradicts claims that immigration enforcement is too expensive. In a pure cost analysis, we can't afford not to enforce our immigration laws. These are recurring costs which are likely to increase as time passes and illegal immigration continues unabated. By comparison, the secure border fence President Trump seeks to build would represent a one-time cost of roughly \$26 billion. Other needed enforcement measures, such as implementation of mandatory E-Verify represent one-time costs that will more than pay for themselves as illegal immigration is reduced.

*The Fiscal Burden of Illegal Immigration on United States Taxpayers*, can be found at [www.FAIRus.org](http://www.FAIRus.org), and should be shared with federal and local policymakers.

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## ICE Steps Up Enforcement in Sanctuary Jurisdictions

The Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency has a clear message for jurisdictions that refuse to honor requests to detain and turn over criminal aliens in their custody: We will increase our enforcement efforts in your communities.

The ICE policy, enunciated by the agency's acting director Thomas Homan, is not purely retaliatory, but is also sound law enforcement strategy. Criminal aliens who are released back onto the streets because of politically driven sanctuary policies pose a danger to community safety. There are countless tragic examples of denied ICE detainer requests that have resulted in avoidable crimes being committed against innocent people. Moreover, sanctuary policies themselves are a magnet for criminal aliens. Juan Francisco

ENFORCEMENT *continues on page 4*

## PRIORITIES *continued from page 1*

The policy changes that Trump wants Congress to legislate into law fall into three category areas: border security, interior enforcement, and legal immigration reform.

Each proposal laid out in the administration's document enjoys

broad public support. Moreover, in one form or another, each has had bipartisan support in the past. The administration's outline puts the ball squarely in the court of the congressional Democratic leadership, putting them on notice that if they want to

protect current DACA beneficiaries from potential deportation and loss of their work authorization, they will need to make good on past promises to the American people. ■

## Highlights from Trump's "Immigration Principles and Policies"

### Border Security

- Fund and construct the border security fence along our southern border. In addition, the proposal ensures funding by authorizing the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) "to raise, collect, and use certain processing fees from immigration benefit applications and border crossings."
- Eliminate legal loopholes for unaccompanied minors (UAMs). Congress would be required to close a loophole that prevents the deportation of UAMs from non-contiguous countries.
- Tighten up on asylum fraud. The proposal would require aliens seeking asylum at the border to demonstrate a credible fear of returning to their home countries. It would also increase immigration judges and detention facilities to reduce immigration court backlogs and ensure removal of inadmissible aliens.
- Eliminate immigration benefits for criminals, gang members, and terrorists.

### Interior Enforcement

- Clearly define state and local requirements with regard to cooperation with federal immigration authorities and penalties for noncompliance.
- Affirmatively authorize state and local governments to assist in enforcement of U.S. immigration laws.
- Crackdown on visa overstays, which account for about 40 percent of all illegal aliens in the U.S. Abuse of a temporary visas could result in a misdemeanor conviction.
- Add 10,000 Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers and 300 new federal prosecutors to conduct interior enforcement efforts.

### Legal Immigration Reform

- Adopt a merit-based policy to select new immigrants to the United States along the lines of the recommendations of the Jordan Commission and the RAISE Act. A merit-based policy would increase the likelihood that new immigrants

- Increase mandatory detention for certain categories of illegal aliens.
- Mandate use of E-Verify by all U.S. employers to prevent illegal aliens from engaging in document and other types of fraud to gain employment.
- Clarify the type of aliens who present a danger to Americans and should therefore be removed on an expedited basis.
- Enhance vetting of visa applicants to prevent the admission of criminals, gang members, and terrorists.

will provide a benefit to the nation. It would also prevent DACA beneficiaries who might receive permanent status in the U.S. from petitioning for a broad range of relatives to immigrate to the U.S.

## California is Officially a Sanctuary State

Just in case there was any doubt in anyone's mind, California has made it official: The Golden State is a 163,696 square mile self-declared sanctuary for illegal aliens. In early October, Gov. Jerry Brown signed S.B. 54 (The California Values Act) into law. The bill was authored by President Pro Tem of the State Senate, Kevin de León, who has announced he will try to unseat the state's long serving U.S. Senator, Dianne Feinstein, in 2018.

SB 54 dramatically restricts state law enforcement departments' ability to cooperate with federal immigration authorities. Beginning January 1, they will be barred from inquiring about the citizenship or immigration status of any individual they encounter, a direct defiance of federal law. It also prevents law enforcement from entering into any agreement or program with federal officials for training or participation in immigration enforcement, including the 287(g) program. Finally, state officials will only be allowed to transfer inmates to federal immigration authorities if they have been convicted of certain crimes.

SB 54 was opposed by the state's elected law enforcement officials. The California State Sheriffs Association came out publicly against the bill, arguing that the legislation was a threat to public safety. However, the pleas of the sheriffs and other law enforcement officials were ignored by the Legislature and Gov. Brown.

ENFORCEMENT *continued from page 2*



Lopez-Sanchez, a criminal alien with multiple convictions on his record, is a textbook case of this dangerous trend. Lopez-Sanchez shot and killed Kate Steinle on the San Francisco waterfront in 2015. He told local police that he was drawn to that city because he knew that he would be shielded by its rigorously enforced sanctuary policies.

In a press release confirming that Operation Safe City is already underway, Homan noted that “Sanctuary jurisdictions that do not honor detainers or allow us access to jails and prisons are shielding criminal aliens from immigration enforcement and creating a magnet for illegal immigration. As a result, ICE is forced to dedicate more resources to conduct at-large arrests in these communities.”

The jurisdictions targeted by Operation Safe City maintain some of the most egregious and dangerous sanctuary policies. ICE confirmed that by late September, its enforcement actions had resulted in numerous arrests in jurisdictions that include: Baltimore (28); Cook County, Illinois (30); Denver (63); Los Angeles (101); New York (45); Philadelphia (107); Seattle (33); Santa Clara County, California (27); Washington, D.C. (14); and the state of Massachusetts (50). The offenders protected by local sanctuary policies included people charged with attempted murder, drug trafficking, sexual abuse of minors and other serious offenses.

The ICE policy also puts sanctuary jurisdictions on notice that their defiance of federal law makes it more likely, not less likely, that non-violent criminal aliens in their area will be apprehended and deported—an ultimate irony since the goal of sanctuary policies is to protect illegal aliens above all else. Earlier this year, Homan told a congressional committee that if his agency is forced to track down criminals who are released from local custody, and those criminals are found in the company of other illegal aliens, his agency will arrest and detain all of them.

Thus, even without direct action by Congress to penalize jurisdictions that maintain illegal sanctuary policies, the federal government is not without recourse. Operation Safe City is an example of unilateral action that can be taken by ICE that both protects public safety and puts sanctuary jurisdictions on notice that those policies will backfire.

# NEWS FROM OUR State & Local Operations

## Texas

Common sense and the rule of law scored an important victory in the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals when a three-judge panel reversed a lower court's injunction and allowed key provisions of Texas's anti-sanctuary law to take effect. The Texas law bars all jurisdictions in the state from implementing policies that impede the federal government's ability to enforce immigration laws, and threatens a cutoff of certain state funding to jurisdictions that do not comply. In addition to clearing the way for Texas to end dangerous sanctuary policies, the Fifth Circuit's ruling clears a legal path for other states to clamp down on local governments that seek to implement sanctuary policies.

## Wisconsin

One of the states that is considering following Texas's lead in prohibiting local sanctuary policies is Wisconsin. An anti-sanctuary measure has already passed the Assembly, despite efforts by illegal alien advocates to disrupt legislative proceedings. In October, the State Senate took up its own anti-sanctuary bill, SB 275. Among those testifying in favor of the bill was FAIR's National Field Director Susan Tully. If SB 275 is approved by the Senate it would have to be reconciled with the Assembly's bill before it could be sent to the governor for his signature. Republican Gov. Scott Walker (who has had an inconsistent record on immigration matters) has not indicated whether he would sign or veto anti-sanctuary legislation.

## Refugee Admissions Capped at 45,000 for FY 2018

**O**n the eve of the new fiscal year, which began on October 1, the Trump administration reversed the upward trend of refugee resettlement. In FY 2018, the United States will admit a maximum of 45,000 refugees for permanent resettlement. The FY 2017 cap, set by former President Obama, was 110,000.

The lowered ceiling on refugee admissions came about in response to security concerns expressed by the Departments of State and Homeland Security. The State Department had recommended a 50,000 cap, while DHS had called for the ceiling to be set at 40,000. The administration's decision splits the difference. The 2018

numbers are also in line with historic norms. Moreover, the admissions cap is just that, a cap, and the actual number of refugees resettled in the U.S. in the coming year could be lower.

The security concerns are based on tangible threats. As ISIS is being routed from strongholds in Syria and Iraq, committed terrorists associated with the radical Islamic group are being dispersed throughout the world. Moreover, the group has made it known that defeat on the battlefield does not signal an end to their efforts to wage their ideological war against the West. ISIS has

*REFUGEE continues on page 6*

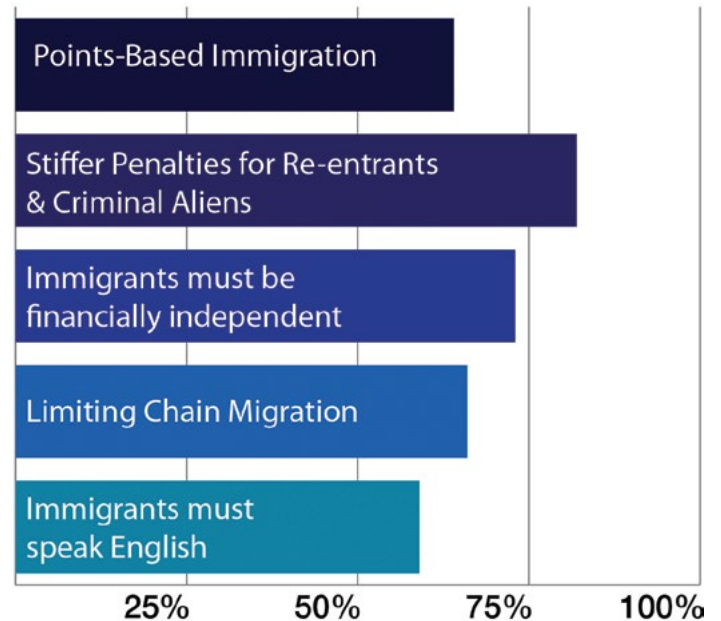
## What Do Americans Think of Administration's "Controversial" Immigration Proposals?

To be succinct, the Trump administration's proposals for an immigration policy overhaul are overwhelmingly popular with American voters. One would never guess from the response in the mainstream media to the White House's release of its principles for immigration reform, but polling indicates that voters do not see the proposals as controversial

A national poll conducted by National Research Inc. and The Polling Company (disclosure: the latter was founded by White House advisor Kellyanne Conway) produced results that should strengthen the resolve of Republican congressional leaders to hold firm on the president's requirement for a deal that addresses the needs and interests of the American people in exchange for protection of DACA beneficiaries. The poll found:

- 64 percent support legislation (like the RAISE Act) that would create a point system based on factors such as English speaking ability, education levels and job skills to rank applicants for the 140,000 employment-based green cards that are granted annually by the U.S.
- 82 percent of voters support a law that would increase sentencing penalties for illegal aliens with previously deportations (like Kate's Law) and strengthens laws against illegal immigrants who commit crimes in the United States
- 73 percent believe immigrants must be able to support themselves financially.

### % of Americans that support Trump's Immigration Policies



- By a 2-to-1 margin, voters support limiting the number of immigrants who are seeking to live here just because their relatives do, so-called "chain migration."
- 59 percent said new immigrants should be required to speak English.

Controversy? What controversy?

### REFUGEE *continued from page 5*

said it is likely to use the flow of refugees to smuggle terrorists into Western nations.

Hezbollah, another international Shi'ite terror group, has reportedly exploited the refugee crisis to move terrorists to the West. According to a new German intelligence report, "Since mid-2015 there are increased indications of fighters from Shi'ite militias entering Germany as legal refugees. The indications regarding

roughly 50% [of the fighters] show a direct connection to Hezbollah." German officials believe there are about 950 active Hezbollah operatives in the country, many of whom entered posing as refugees.

High-ranking Obama intelligence officials have testified before Congress that effective vetting of refugees from war ravaged countries in the Middle East is extremely difficult if not impossible. The lower

cap on refugee admissions cannot guarantee that terrorists will not slip through the security net, but at least the reduced flow increases the likelihood of U.S. security agencies to identify potential threats.

## Agreeing to the Administration's Immigration Reform Proposals Shouldn't Be that Hard for Democrats: They've Already Agreed to Them

The official Democratic line on addressing the status of illegal aliens who will begin losing their DACA protections in March is simple. They want a clean DREAM Act amnesty – not just for the 700,000 current DACA beneficiaries, but for an estimated 3.4 million illegal aliens who are believed to have entered the country as minors. By a “clean amnesty” they mean with no (or at least minimal) offsetting enforcement provisions or protections against future illegal immigration.

The DREAM Act amnesty has, in one form or another, been around since 2000 and has been repeatedly rejected by Congress and the American people. Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) and House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) are probably aware that a clean and comprehensive DREAM Act is a non-starter with the administration and the American public, but their strategy is to gain amnesty for as many illegal aliens as they can for as little as possible in the way of enforcement.

In a late-September op-ed, Schumer and Pelosi falsely assert that we owe DACA recipients amnesty and reject any notion that their future status should be used as a “bargaining chip” to gain concessions for the American people. In fact, no promises were ever made to DACA beneficiaries. President Obama was absolutely clear when he established DACA, it was a temporary program that could be terminated by subsequent administrations.

Promises have been made (and broken) to the American people that immigration laws would be enforced and policies would serve public interests. Nobody has been a party to more of these broken promises than Chuck Schumer. Thus, if the Republican leadership in Congress

is truly intent on brokering an immigration deal that protects the public interest, they will remind the American people that virtually every policy priority laid out by the Trump administration has already been accepted by the Democratic leadership and, in particular, by the Senate minority leader.

- In 1986, Schumer led the House effort to pass the Immigration Reform and Control Act, which promised better border security and a system to prevent illegal aliens from working in the U.S. As recently as 2013, Schumer extolled the failed Gang of Eight bill “the toughest” border security bill in history.
- In 1995, the leadership of the Democratic Party, including President Clinton, endorsed the recommendations of the Jordan Commission which called for a merit-based selection process and a 50 percent reduction in overall immigration.
- In 1996, while still in the House, Schumer voted in favor of legislation that outlawed sanctuary policies.
- In 2006, as a member of the Senate, Schumer joined Senators Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton, and Joe Biden in supporting construction of a secure border fence.

Thus, the single most important opponent of the president's effort to gain real immigration reform and protections for the American people in exchange for protecting DACA recipients is already on record agreeing to almost every single one of the administration's requirements. If a deal does not get done, the record must note that it was because Schumer and the Democratic Party reneged on past promises to the American people.



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Charity Navigator has awarded FAIR three out of a possible four stars. In addition, FAIR continues its top-rated status with Charity Watch. FAIR has demonstrated exceptional financial health, outperforming most of our peers in our efforts to manage and grow our finances in the most fiscally responsible way possible.



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11.28.2017

Last year you helped FAIR raise over \$20,000 in our year-end fundraising campaign, #GivingTuesday is the kickoff for that campaign.

#GivingTuesday is a national event which highlights charitable giving and is a chance for you to support the ongoing fight for comprehensive immigration reform that protects American interests.

The amnesty coalition wants to gain from millions of illegal aliens being granted citizenship. They do not care about how this would affect the American economy, jobs or environment.

Your generosity in 2016 helped FAIR enter 2017 ready to battle the amnesty opposition. This year, FAIR has been there every day advancing American priorities for border security, strong interior enforcement and lower immigration levels for a sustainable future for all American citizens.

2018 holds great promise, but we won't get there without your help.

On Tuesday, November 28th help FAIR continue to stand up against special interests that want to censor the immigration debate and jeopardize the safety and livelihood of Americans.

**Visit [www.FAIRus.org](http://www.FAIRus.org)  
Tuesday, November 28th.**