



AB 2601 – Illegal Immigration - Tax revenue reallocation for sanctuary cities

John J. Benoit (R-Bermuda Dunes)

CWA Position – Support

Talking Points

1. AB 2601 requires vehicle license fee (VLF) revenue to no longer be allocated to any city declared to be a sanctuary city for illegal aliens. Those unallocated funds would instead be used to provide grants to cities that request additional law enforcement training.
2. A sanctuary city is one that does not require its law enforcement personnel to report illegal aliens to federal authorities and does not determine an applicant's immigration status prior to issuing a municipal ID card. These practices effectively undermine both state and federal efforts to curb illegal immigration and instead blatantly condone the breaking of our country's laws. In particular, local authorities are unable to assist in the federal apprehension of convicted criminal aliens that have returned to the U.S. following their deportation.
3. By redirecting VLF funds away from sanctuary cities, the state uses its most effective means of encouraging all California cities to abide by the laws of our state. These revenues would instead be used to assist many non-sanctuary localities with their efforts to fight illegal immigration. Most notably, funds would be used to help train local officers to perform immigration law enforcement functions as allowed by current federal law.
4. Numerous acts of violence in the U.S. have been committed by illegal aliens who had previously been arrested in sanctuary cities but not deported because local law enforcement was barred from contacting federal immigration officials. Many of these crimes may have been prevented had these aliens been properly deported.
5. In response to multiple cities adopting sanctuary declarations, the United States Congress in 1996 passed legislation barring local governments from passing ordinances requiring that employees not cooperate with federal immigration authorities. Despite the U.S. Supreme Court's upholding of this new legislation, cities and municipalities continue to skirt the issue by simply adopting a "don't ask, don't tell" policy regarding immigration status or by ignoring the new federal law altogether. This legislation would finally force these sanctuary cities to pay a price for flaunting the law.
6. The ability of illegal immigrants to "hide out" in sanctuary cities fosters a dangerous safe haven for terrorists looking to fly below the radar. By knowing where in our country they will likely not be detected, these individuals can more easily prepare with little concern for being caught.

**CONCERNED WOMEN FOR AMERICA
OF CALIFORNIA**