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California State Senate

SENATOR
JEFF STONE, PHARM.D.
TWENTY-EIGHTH SENATE DISTRICT



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BUDGET & FISCAL REVIEW
PUBLIC SAFETY

September 21, 2017

The Honorable Jerry Brown
Governor, State of California
State Capitol, First Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Requested Veto of SB 54 (De Leon)

Dear Governor Brown:

I would like to respectfully request that you veto SB 54. This bill would make California a sanctuary state, by stating that no state or local law enforcement agency, other than the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, could use any money or personnel to investigate, interrogate, detain, detect, or arrest persons for immigration enforcement purposes.

First, I would like to thank you for working so hard to remove several of the most egregious parts of this bill. However, there are still several major concerns outstanding in this legislation, which is why I believe it is worthy of a veto.

I firmly believe that local law enforcement, including our Sheriffs, have no desire to act as immigration officers. They have stated numerous times, throughout the legislative process, that their role is to serve all members of the community, regardless of their immigration status. They are not detaining any individual solely on their immigration status.

Therefore, this bill only serves to limit local law enforcement's ability to work and cooperate with federal authorities. This is a serious concern, considering the crimes that are being committed by the individuals that would be exempt include assault, theft, and battery. These are dangerous individuals who should be deported, not released back into our communities.

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I also believe that this bill is unconstitutional, as it preempts federal law. It is the role of the federal government to set forth immigration policy, while this bill tries to impose its own rules in a field that Congress has validly determined it must exclusively govern.

By limiting California law enforcement's ability to cooperate with ICE and provide the federal government with relevant information, this bill interferes with federal government's ability to make those immigration-related determinations.

Make no mistake. The federal government has failed time and again over the years to deal with comprehensive immigration reform. This Congress and the President must come together and deal with this issue. However, SB 54 is the wrong solution to this very serious issue.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that you veto SB 54.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff Stone". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "J" and "S".

Jeff Stone
State Senator, 28th District