



CITY OF
T O R R A N C E

PATRICK J. FUREY
MAYOR

May 15, 2017

The Honorable Anthony Rendon
Speaker of Assembly
Capital Office, Room 219
PO Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0063

SB 54 (Oppose As Amended – 3/29/17)

Dear Assembly Member Rendon:

On behalf of the City of Torrance, I am writing to express our opposition to Senate Bill 54, which would limit law enforcement abilities to protect all individuals regardless of immigration status. Per Senate Bill 54, law enforcement agencies cannot use agency or department moneys, facilities, property, equipment, or personnel to investigate, interrogate, detain, detect, or arrest persons for immigration enforcement purposes. Public Safety is the primary concern of local law enforcement, not immigration. However, SB 54 restricts partnerships between local law enforcement and federal law enforcement agencies, imposes mandatory reporting requirements, and hinders investigations by federal law enforcement agencies within local jails; taken together this bill would severely restrict law enforcement abilities to protect the public.

Partnerships with Task Force operations and coordination with Federal agencies- This bill limits the ability of law enforcement to participate in task force operations if the primary purpose is immigration enforcement. The bill limits communication and coordination between local law enforcement and federal agencies unless, a judicial warrant was obtained, or previous violent felony conviction of the detainee is present. This bill is contradictory to post 9/11 counter terrorism strategies, where partnerships with federal agencies were encouraged to combat terrorism. Immigration laws are a tool to combat not only terrorism but organized crime, and transnational narcotics trafficking.

Mandatory Reporting- SB 54 imposes labor-intensive, reporting requirements on local law enforcement that participate in task force operations with federal agencies without additional funding or providing local law enforcement with resources to meet the mandate.

Preventing ICE from conducting immigration operations within jail facilities. Existing law requires the state agency that oversees the jails to provide notification to the inmates of their rights should ICE be granted access to the jails for immigration purposes. With the passage of SB 54, ICE will no longer be allowed access, thereby forcing the field operations out into the community.

This would result in not only providing a public arena for immigration operations which would negatively impact the on-going efforts of instilling trust between law enforcement and the community, but could increase volatility of these types of situations where public safety would be in danger.

Potential loss of federal funding to state or local law enforcement agencies. Another drawback with the passage of SB 54 is the potential loss of federal funding. The federal administration has indicated publicly (and in an executive order) that it intends to withhold federal funding from "sanctuary states". The federal administration could seek to withhold some federal funding with the passage of this bill.

City of Torrance joins other California Police Chiefs, Los Angeles County Police Chiefs Association, and Los Angeles County Sheriff's Association in opposition of bill that creates more issues than it solves.

For these reasons, the City of Torrance respectfully opposes Senate Bill 54.

Sincerely,



Mayor Pat Furey

cc: Al Muratsuchi, Assembly Member District 66
Lorena S. Gonzalez Fletcher, Chair of the Appropriations Committee
Reginald Byron Jones-Sawyer Sr., Chair of Public Safety Committee