



July 1, 2016

## Call your Senators Today and Urge them to Oppose the "Stop Dangerous Sanctuary Cities Act" and the "Stop Illegal Reentry Act"

Find your senator(s) contact information [here](#).

The National Task Force to End Sexual and Domestic Violence Against Women urges you to join us in opposing S. 3100 and S. 2193.

**S. 3100** would punish cities that allow police to focus on community priorities rather than target people based on their immigration status by cutting critical funding that supports public services, including domestic violence and housing resources. When members of the community can report sexual assault, domestic violence and other violent crimes, and seek protection without the fear of being deported and separated from their families, safety increases for everyone. **S. 2193** would have the effect of penalizing many domestic and sexual assault victims who are fleeing violence and seeking safety for themselves and their children.

Please call your senator and/or send a tweet using their handle to tell them:

Vote **NO** on **S.3100** and **S. 2193** – the "Stop Dangerous Sanctuary Cities Act" and the "Stop Illegal Reentry Act." They unfairly punish victims of domestic violence and sexual assault and put communities at risk!

### **Background:**

The "Stop Dangerous Sanctuary Cities Act," S. 3100 attempts to coerce local police to work as immigration enforcement agents. Provisions in S.3100 seek to reduce Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Economic Development Administration (EDA) funds to communities with "sanctuary" policies, which will harm communities by reducing access to critical housing and community services that are accessed by all victims, including both U.S. Citizens and immigrants. During Fiscal Year 2015 alone, over 100,000 victims of domestic violence accessed CDBG funded services

The National Task Force opposes S. 3100 because it will have the chilling effect of pushing vulnerable victims into the shadows, allowing violent criminals to escape accountability. Many victims fear reaching out for law enforcement help due to fear that police would enforce immigration laws. Some of the most vulnerable victims in our

communities are effectively cut off from police protection if local law enforcement plays the role of federal immigration agents. Though the bill provides exceptions to sharing victim and witness information with immigration enforcement, these exceptions don't address the reality of how abusers and perpetrators take advantage of the isolation and language barriers faced by immigrant victims.

S. 2193's harsh criminal penalties will inevitably punish victims of trafficking, sexual assault and domestic violence. S.2193 creates mandatory minimum criminal sentences for individuals who reenter the country after having been deported, or due to certain criminal offenses. Immigrant victims fleeing domestic and sexual violence and trafficking will be penalized for trying to escape the harm, in particular those who attempt to enter the U.S. escaping abuse but are detained and deported in the process. In addition, immigrant victims are often vulnerable to being arrested and prosecuted for crimes directly connected to their victimization because of language and cultural barriers.

For the National Task Force letter, [click here](#).

For stories of survivors, [click here](#).

Undermining jurisdictions that have worked to increase the trust of immigrant communities puts all of our communities at risk!