



CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

IMMIGRANT RIGHTS COMMISSION

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The San Francisco Immigrant Rights Commission Applauds the United States Senate's Vote to Block S.3100 and S.1762

The San Francisco Immigrant Rights Commission commends the Senate's vote to block Senate Bill 3100 "Stop Dangerous Sanctuary Cities Act" and Senate Bill 1762 "Establishing Mandatory Minimums for Illegal Reentry Act of 2015."

The San Francisco Immigrant Rights Commission deeply supports San Francisco's City of Refuge Ordinance, known as "Sanctuary City," which protects undocumented immigrants by mandating city employees and officials not to ask or report a person's immigration status. These proposed bills, however, if implemented, put significant risk and strain on communities by taking away millions of federal dollars that go to safety, health and human services for all residents. These proposed measures do not simply impact the undocumented immigrant community but the entire San Francisco family, and other cities nationwide that work to protect all of their residents.

The 'Establishing Mandatory Minimums for Illegal Reentry Act of 2015' would amend Section 276 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to establish mandatory minimum sentences for illegal reentry. By mandating incarceration for those reentering without status, this bill plays into the myth that immigrants entering without status are dangerous criminals.

The San Francisco Immigrant Rights Commission will continue to urge Senators Feinstein and Boxer to continue their support of Sanctuary City policies and immigration laws that preserve the dignity of all persons.

We need common sense and practical immigration reform, not bills like those voted on in the Senate today, which are divisive, harmful and threatening to our immigrant community. We, as the Immigrant Rights Commission, call on Congress to act and bring our communities together, not further divide them.

The Immigrant Rights Commission will continue to serve as the voice for San Francisco's immigrants in matters of immigration reform and local issues affecting our community.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Commission,



Celine Kennelly, Chair



Haregu Gaime, Vice Chair

The Immigrant Rights Commission is an appointed 15-member body that informs and advises the Mayor, Board of Supervisors and city officials on the wellbeing and integration of immigrants in San Francisco. Members of the Commission must be citizens of the United States and at least eight members must be immigrants. For more information on the IRC, contact the Office of Civic Engagement & Immigrant Affairs at civic.engagement@sfgov.org.