



Washington State Senate

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Dear Governor Ferguson,

I am writing to respectfully request that your administration work more closely with federal officials to address the pressing issue of violent, criminally convicted individuals who are in Washington State illegally. While immigration policy is a federal issue, the safety and well-being of Washingtonians must remain a top priority. Collaboration with federal immigration authorities is critical to ensuring dangerous criminals are removed from our communities.

As the sponsor of Senate Bill 5002, I believe repealing Washington's sanctuary status and removing barriers that currently prevent violent offenders from being apprehended by federal authorities will protect not only our citizen but the undocumented community as well.

While protecting immigrant communities is essential, it is equally important to ensure that sanctuary policies do not inadvertently provide cover to violent criminals who prey on the very communities that the sanctuary policies seek to protect. Our state has experienced tragic incidents of violent crimes, some of which have been in my district, that are being committed by those with extensive criminal histories in the country illegally and underscores the urgent need for reform.

I hope you can agree that we need to close dangerous loopholes by repealing sanctuary state laws and administrative policies that restrict unreasonable cooperation between state law enforcement and federal immigration authorities. We need to eliminate policies that prohibit arrests of unauthorized migrants at court facilities, which has made apprehending violent criminals more dangerous for immigration officials and puts other undocumented migrants at risk. This is not about immigration status but about public safety.

By prioritizing the removal of violent criminals, we can better protect not only all Washingtonians but also immigrant communities that are often the most victimized by illegal immigration and related criminal activities.

With impending changes to federal immigration policy, now is the time for Washington to reassess its sanctuary stance and strengthen partnerships with federal agencies tasked with immigration enforcement. We must take proactive steps to ensure that our state's policies do not hinder the removal of dangerous individuals from our streets.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. I look forward to working together to prioritize public safety and foster greater cooperation with federal authorities.

Sincerely,

Senator Phil Fortunato