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July 22, 2015

The Honorable John A. Boehner
Speaker of the House
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker:

It is our understanding that the Committee on Rules will today meet to consider as an "emergency measure" H.R. 3009, the "Enforce the Law for Sanctuary Cities Act." We further understand that you may schedule the House of Representatives to vote on this bill this week. Given the substantial impact that this legislation would have on State and local law enforcement agencies and communities around the country, we urge you not to bypass the committee process and regular order for consideration of this very complex and controversial piece of legislation.

Last Thursday, the Committee on the Judiciary noticed a hearing on the topic of so-called "sanctuary cities." That hearing is currently scheduled to begin at 10:00am tomorrow, one day after the Committee on Rules will already have met to consider H.R. 3009 and possibly on the very same day that the House will be asked to consider the bill on the Floor. To date, the Committee has held no legislative hearings on H.R. 3009.

Were the Committee given the opportunity to review the legislation, Members could have considered the numerous objections to the bill that already have been voiced on behalf of major law enforcement associations, cities, mayors, domestic violence organizations, and immigrants' rights groups. Such groups oppose this measure because it second-guesses the decisions made by police chiefs and sheriffs around the country about how best to police their communities and ensure public safety and it does nothing to fix our broken immigration system more generally. Without the opportunity to engage in such a debate, this measure is poised to come to the Floor without having been properly debated by the Committee of jurisdiction.

Last year, House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy declared that "as majority leader I will commit to the committee process and regular order." He made this commitment because, in his words, "committees act as idea factories for policies from both sides."

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We ask that you honor this commitment and refrain from rushing this problematic piece of legislation to the Floor without any committee process and in the absence of regular order.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



John Conyers, Jr.
Ranking Member
House Committee on the Judiciary



Zoe Lofgren
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Immigration and Border
Security

cc: The Honorable Kevin McCarthy, House Majority Leader
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, House Democratic Leader
The Honorable Steny Hoyer, House Democratic Whip
The Honorable Bob Goodlatte, Chairman, House Committee on the Judiciary