



500 S. Main Street, Suite #410, Orange, CA 92868 | P: (714) 953-1300 | F: (714) 953-1302 | www.ACCOC.org

March 5, 2017

Senator Kevin de León
State Capitol, Room 205
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 54 (de León) Law enforcement: sharing data. – OPPOSE

Dear Senator De León,

The Association of California Cities – Orange County (ACC-OC) would like to express its opposition for Senate Bill 54 (de León). SB 54 would restrict local law enforcement agencies from collaborating and partnering with federal agencies related to immigration enforcement action. ACC-OC was founded in 2011 as the hub for good public policy representing the interests of Orange County cities, and is committed to supporting county-wide partners and regional public safety leaders through the advocacy against legislation like SB 54, which weakens local law enforcements resources.

The recent passage of Propositions 47 and 57 by California voters would be further compounded by legislation such as SB 54. After the passage of Proposition 57, four of Orange County's largest cities saw a significant increase in violent crime. Law enforcement officials spoke out strongly in opposition to Prop 57 when it was on the ballot, and now that it has passed their opposition has only grown. A combination of these policies has severely impacted local public safety and have spread their resources to the full extent of their capacity. SB 54 would hinder the ability for law enforcement to work concurrently with their federal counterparts, furthering this impact on resources

SB 54 creates a conflict between the federal and local law enforcement agencies to fulfill their duties to both the State and the federal government. It also signifies a decisive step backward in the fight to increase transparency and encourage "open data" within both local and federal law enforcement, as outlined by the Police Data Initiative (PDI). A lack of information sharing between agencies has long since been identified as a roadblock to effective police work. Efforts such as the PDI have made significant strides toward achieving more open communication between agencies; the passage of SB 54, however, would effectively reverse this important progress.

In addition, local agencies stand to lose millions of dollars in federal funding should the federal administration impose economic sanctions on those agencies that take action contrary to federal laws regarding this matter. Those federal funds are desperately needed to help fight crime, provide needed services, and help rebuild our failing infrastructure. Orange County cities stand to lose monies in Federal Community Development Block Grant and Highway Administration funding should SB 54 pass. This does not include potential future funding that



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may otherwise become available to local agencies from the federal administration infrastructure and transportation funding package currently under consideration.

The safety of California's cities is of paramount importance, and should always be addressed as swiftly and decisively as possible. For this and the reasons described above, the Association of California Cities – Orange County is opposed to SB 54. Should you have any questions about our position or about ACC-OC, please contact Diana Coronado, ACC-OC's Legislative Affairs Director, at (714) 953-1300 or at dcoronado@accoc.org.

Sincerely,

Heather Stratman
Chief Executive Officer
Association of California Cities – Orange County

CC:

ACC-OC Board of Directors
Orange County State Legislative Delegation