



Dear Friends,

The issues of illegal immigration and immigration reform have been very hotly debated topics for years in the United States. It has become a very visceral issue because we are talking about legal versus illegal entry into our country. For me, the debate is pretty simple. If you are a legal entry, you are welcome. If you are not, you have to go back where you came from. If you want to come back, you absolutely have to go through legal channels. I realize that this is a very candid assessment, but things are not what they were 50 years ago. These are different times, and the safety of our citizens is being compromised.

On July 1st, 2015, Kate Steinle, a 32 year old woman with her whole life ahead of her, was shot to death in San Francisco. She was walking on a pier with her father, enjoying the evening. The act was so heinous, you just go numb thinking about it. The confessed killer was not only a felon, but had been deported from our country on five different occasions. It turns out that San Francisco is what is known as a sanctuary city, which is why the murderer was there. Sanctuary cities are what I would like to talk about with you today, along with what some of us want to do in the State Senate about sanctuary cities in Michigan.

Currently, there are well over 200 sanctuary cities in the United States. Two are here in Michigan: Detroit and Ann Arbor. Just recently, I co-sponsored legislation known as Senate Bill 445. Basically, what SB 445 does is stipulate that if a jurisdiction has sanctuary policies, it will lose its annual share of State Revenue Sharing funding until it drops all sanctuary policies. In 2014, the revenue sharing for Detroit was \$1.4 million, and the revenue sharing for Ann Arbor was \$305,000.

SB 445 will not solve our entire immigration problem, but it will surely help. SB 445 is a game changer for two reasons. First, that Detroit is our most populous city creates major problems for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) personnel. Second, what is to stop other cities in Michigan from adopting sanctuary provisions? In my opinion, these sanctuary cities are like a powder keg just getting ready to explode.

Since July 1st, my staff and I have taken numerous calls from citizens in my Senate District regarding the events in San Francisco. I think the question most often asked is this: Just what is a sanctuary city? These are cities that instruct their law enforcement not to notify the Federal Government of illegal aliens living inside their borders; cities, who by written policy, choose not to comply with requests from Federal Immigration personnel.

Continued on back

"I AM WORKING FOR YOU!"

Office: 517-373-7670 • Toll-Free: 866-229-4211

senjbrandenburg@senate.mi.gov • www.SenatorJackBrandenburg.com

The term “sanctuary city” is not an official designation. These jurisdictions are viewed as providing “sanctuary” for those who choose to live in our country illegally. Sanctuary status often clouds the difference between legal resident aliens and those who reside here illegally. This makes it pretty easy for the illegals, because they can easily take advantage of taxpayer-funded services.

Another common question: How can something like this happen? It defies common sense! Our President is a big supporter of sanctuary cities. His new program, the Primary Enforcement Program, allows jurisdictions to totally disregard agents from Immigration and Customs Enforcement; not handing over deportable aliens that the locals either already have in custody, or have knowledge of their whereabouts. This was exactly the case in the San Francisco murder of Kate Steinle on July 1st.

Proponents of sanctuary cities contend that they are valuable and useful in protecting the rights of immigrants. This is one justification that really makes me laugh. Illegal aliens are just not in the same category as people who are legal immigrants, who came here to make a better life for themselves.

SB 445 is going to get a big push from the Conservatives in the State Senate. For me, this is personal. Sanctuary city policies protect criminals who have entered our country illegally. People who enter our country illegally have no business being here. I, for one, have no time or patience for criminals, and I have even less tolerance for anyone who protects them!

In closing, if you have any comments or suggestions, please contact me. As always, it is my pleasure and my honor to serve as your State Senator.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jack". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "J" and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jack Brandenburg
State Senator - District 8