

February 20, 2025

**Re: Vote “No” on H.R. 32, the No Bailout for Sanctuary Cities Act, Reject Attacks on State and Local Governments**

Dear Representative Gillen,

On behalf of millions of New Yorkers, we the undersigned groups write to express our grave concern regarding H.R. 32, the [No Bailout for Sanctuary Cities Act](#), a bill that would cut off vital services to communities across our state – from Meals on Wheels to the local bus line. New York families count on these vital services and Congress should not put them in jeopardy by enacting H.R. 32.

**We urge you to vote NO on this bill.**

The No Bailout for Sanctuary Cities Act would strip a state or local government of federal funds it “intends to use for the benefit” of undocumented immigrants. The bill specifically names federal funding for “food, shelter, healthcare services, legal services, and transportation,” but leaves the door open to “any” funding being cut.

We fear the actual result of this bill **would be a funding cut-off across the board of critical services to all our community members**. As you well know, state and local agencies do not generally segregate their funding allocations for citizens versus noncitizens, let alone noncitizens without legal status versus all others.

Just weeks ago, we saw the chaos that ensued as the Trump administration attempted to freeze federal funding through the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Now, the Department of Justice is putting its grants to states and cities under review, causing more uncertainty. And we have no doubt the same chaos, confusion and suspension of services will occur if the Trump administration is able to wield this bill to freeze all federal funding to the hundreds of cities and dozens of states impacted. State and local employees—social workers, police officers, teachers, bus drivers, and more—stand to lose funding they rely on to do their jobs serving our communities.

*Punishing Our Communities for “Sanctuary” Policies*

Passing the No Bailout for Sanctuary Cities Act would have a devastating impact on multiples cities and counties across New York State. Several cities and counties—large and small—have laws, policies, or practices that limit cooperation with immigration enforcement as identified in the bill. New York City,<sup>1</sup> Ithaca,<sup>2</sup> and Westchester County<sup>3</sup> all have local laws limiting their law enforcement from honoring detainees. Given the breadth of H.R. 32, other jurisdictions may have policies or practices of varying degrees of formality that could put funding at risk.

Local communities should be able to focus their limited resources on local community needs. Congress should not effectively force cities and states to devote local resources to immigration enforcement—that is a federal responsibility being outsourced to state and local governments with no recompense. This bill would punish American families who rely on local services—such as

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<sup>1</sup> N.Y.C. Admin. Code §§ 9-131, 9-205, 14-154.

<sup>2</sup> City of Ithaca Code § 215-40.

<sup>3</sup> Westchester County Act No. 19-2018, *available at* <https://humanrights.westchestergov.com/images/stories/pdfs/2018immigrationAct.pdf>.

school lunches and community health clinics—just because a local jail lacks the resources to hold people for federal immigration authorities.

For decades, all local jurisdictions have shared the fingerprints of people booked in custody with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to see if they have outstanding warrants against them. The FBI shares that information with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), which includes U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). That means DHS is already notified of every single individual taken into state or local custody, regardless of “sanctuary” status.

We strongly urge you to make clear your opposition to H.R. 32. Our groups would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to further discuss this bill.

The New York Civil Liberties Union (Nassau County Regional Office)

Bend the Arc: Jewish Action – Long Island

Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island

Gender Equality New York, Inc.

Long Island Advocates for Police Accountability

Long Island Social Justice Action Network

Make the Road NY

New Hour for Women & Children LI

OLA of Eastern Long Island

Reach Out America

SEPA Mujer Inc.

S.T.R.O.N.G. Youth, Inc.

#WeAreLongIsland