



HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

Chairman Jim Jordan

OREGON: THE DANGEROUS CONSEQUENCES OF SANCTUARY POLICIES

Interim Staff Report

Committee on the Judiciary
Chairman Jim Jordan

Subcommittee on Immigration Integrity, Security, and Enforcement
Chairman Tom McClintock

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Democrats' open-borders policies at the federal level and sanctuary policies at the state and local level allow millions of illegal aliens to pour into the country and ensure that criminal aliens, after encountered by local law enforcement, are released back into American communities. For four years, the Biden-Harris Administration's open borders allowed over eight million illegal aliens to enter the United States, including six million aliens who were released into the country and another two million "gotaways" who avoided apprehension entirely.¹ Once in the country, sanctuary policies in Democrat-run jurisdictions like Oregon allow criminal aliens to stay, hurting public safety and endangering law-abiding Americans.

Many Democrat-run state and local jurisdictions prohibit law enforcement from cooperating with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to ensure that criminal aliens are transferred to ICE custody and removed from the United States. Led by far-left officials and guided by radical immigration policies, these sanctuary jurisdictions provide a safe haven for criminal aliens. Democrat prosecutors in certain sanctuary jurisdictions provide foreign national criminals preferential prosecutorial treatment—leniency that similarly situated Americans do not receive—so that the criminal aliens may avoid immigration consequences for their criminality and can remain in the United States indefinitely.

The American people elected President Donald Trump and Congressional Republicans with a mandate to secure the border, restore immigration enforcement, and reverse Democrats' immigration agenda. President Trump's border enforcement agenda has worked, and illegal alien apprehensions at the southwest border are at historic lows.² Congressional Democrats, however, oppose the President's commonsense solutions to improve border security and immigration enforcement. To thwart this law-and-order approach and to protect criminal and illegal aliens, Democrats at the federal level shut down the federal government for months in 2025 and 2026. Their obstruction ensured that many of the hardworking men and women of the Department of Homeland Security were unpaid and unable to fully carry out their mission to protect the homeland.

¹ Info. provided to the H. Comm. on the Judiciary by U.S. Dep't of Homeland Sec., Table 1: Detention Histories of CBP Encounters, January 20, 2021 – March 31, 2024 (Aug. 16, 2024); U.S. Customs and Border Prot., *Custody and Transfer Statistics*, U.S. DEP'T OF HOMELAND SEC. (last accessed July 8, 2025); Camilo Montoya-Galvez, *Biden-Harris Administration has admitted more than 1 million migrants into U.S. under parole policy Congress is considering restricting*, CBS NEWS (Jan. 22, 2024); *Latest UC Data, Total Monthly Discharges to Individual Sponsors Only*, U.S. DEP'T OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVS. (last accessed Aug. 7, 2026); Off. of Refugee Resettlement, *Unaccompanied Children Released to Sponsors by State*, U.S. DEP'T OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVS. (last accessed Aug. 7, 2026); U.S. Customs and Border Prot., *CBP Releases December 2024 Monthly Update*, U.S. DEP'T OF HOMELAND SEC. (Jan. 14, 2025); Immigr. and Customs Enf't, *Daily SWB Placemat*, U.S. DEP'T OF HOMELAND SEC. (May 2024-Jan. 2025) (on file with Comm.); Off. of Homeland Sec. Statistics, *Immigr. Enf't and Legal Processes Monthly Tables – Apr. 2024*, U.S. DEP'T OF HOMELAND SEC. (last accessed Aug. 7, 2026); Casey Harper, *Border crisis creates national security threat for U.S., observers say*, WASH. EXAMINER (Aug. 7, 2023); Bill Melugin (@BillMelugin), X (June 20, 2024, 10:22 AM).

² See, e.g., Press Release, Trump Administration Delivers 14 Straight Months of Zero Releases at the Border, U.S. Dep't of Homeland Sec. (July 16, 2026), <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2026/07/16/trump-administration-delivers-14-straight-months-zero-releases-border>.

Meanwhile, at the state and local level, Democrats' sanctuary policies continued to wreak havoc on American communities. Because sanctuary jurisdictions routinely refuse to cooperate with ICE, officials in these sanctuary jurisdictions release criminal aliens onto the streets instead of transferring them to ICE for removal from the country. According to ICE information, between October 2022 and early 2026, sanctuary jurisdictions declined to honor at least 41,085 detainers from ICE.³ A detainer is the formal request that a state or local law enforcement agency notify ICE before releasing a criminal alien or that the agency maintain custody of a criminal alien for a short period until ICE is able to arrest them in a secure setting.⁴ By refusing to honor ICE detainers, state and local jurisdictions guarantee that dangerous foreign national criminals—even illegal aliens who have been convicted of serious, violent crimes—are released into American communities and free to reoffend.

Sanctuary jurisdictions pose a significant threat to public safety and the enforcement of federal immigration law. The Committee on the Judiciary, with its Subcommittee on Immigration Integrity, Security, and Enforcement, has been conducting oversight of these sanctuary policies. Since January 2026, the Committee and Subcommittee have requested information relating to jurisdictions that restrict or prohibit cooperation with federal immigration officials, including their policies' devastating effects on public safety. To date, the Committee and Subcommittee have requested relevant material from 40 officials in 13 sanctuary jurisdictions across the country.

This interim staff report focuses on Oregon, which has obstructed federal law enforcement with its sanctuary policies for years. Nonpublic documents and data obtained by the Committee and Subcommittee reveal the startling extent to which the city of Portland and the state of Oregon actively obstruct the enforcement of federal immigration law and shield foreign national criminals from accountability. The Committee and Subcommittee's oversight reveals:

- **Oregon's sanctuary policies allows repeat and dangerous criminals to be released back into Oregon communities.** Oregon's prohibition on honoring ICE detainers continues even though the Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC) has received detainers for aliens with convictions that include rape, felony DUI, racketeering, strangulation, stalking, sexual abuse, assault, burglary, and murder.⁵ Oregon law prohibits DOC from honoring ICE detainers for any of those criminal aliens.⁶
- **The Portland Police Bureau (PPB) not only refuses to honor ICE detainers but also directs people who witness ICE activity to call an organization that advocates for ICE's abolishment.**⁷ PPB is so fearful of Oregon's pro-illegal alien activists that the agency has warned its officers about shaking hands with their federal counterparts

³ Info. provided to the H. Comm. on the Judiciary by U.S. Immigr. and Customs Enf't (Feb. 6, 2026) (on file with Comm.). The number of declined detainers is likely higher, given that ICE may not be aware that a detainer was declined until the agency encounters an alien who had previously been released.

⁴ See Immigr. Detainers, U.S. Immigr. and Customs Enf't, <https://www.ice.gov/immigration-detainers> (last accessed Aug. 7, 2026).

⁵ See *infra* note 53 and accompanying text.

⁶ See *infra* note 43 and accompanying text.

⁷ See *infra* notes 58-59 and accompanying text.

because the ordinary professional courtesy would “likely raise eyebrows within the community and will garner attention.”⁸

- **The chief prosecutor for Portland treats illegal aliens differently than similarly situated American citizens and even other criminal aliens.** The policies of current Multnomah County District Attorney Nathan Vasquez and former District Attorney Mike Schmidt ensure that prosecutors in the office give preferential treatment to foreign nationals based solely on their immigration status—all so that criminal aliens can avoid deportation and remain in the United States indefinitely.⁹
- **District Attorney Vasquez allows prosecutors in his office to cooperate with foreign governments but not U.S. immigration officials.** Although Vasquez does not have a cooperation policy with ICE, his office requires prosecutors to notify the consulates of foreign nationals from 58 countries when suspects, victims, and witnesses are foreign nationals.¹⁰

Oregon’s sanctuary policies threaten public safety and undermine the safe and effective enforcement of federal immigration law. In one case from 2025, an illegal alien from India killed newlyweds Billy Carter and Jennifer Lower when their car crashed into his jackknifed semi-truck.¹¹ Because of Oregon’s sanctuary laws, a local jail ignored an ICE detainer for the illegal alien and released him back onto Oregon roads.¹²

This interim report provides evidence of the ways in which just one state has implemented policies that allow dangerous foreign nationals to reoffend and avoid deportation. But the city of Portland, the state of Oregon, and their leaders are not outliers. They are indicative of a modern, radical, socialist Democrat Party that seeks to erase national borders and place illegal alien criminals ahead of law-abiding American citizens. The policies supported by these Democrats, including sanctuary policies, will have negative and lasting consequences for Americans. The Committee and Subcommittee will continue to conduct oversight of these sanctuary policies to inform potential legislative reforms to better protect American communities.

⁸ See *infra* note 62 and accompanying text.

⁹ See *infra* notes 75-82 and accompanying text.

¹⁰ See *infra* notes 84-85 and accompanying text.

¹¹ See *infra* notes 68-70 and accompanying text.

¹² See *infra* note 72 and accompanying text.

SANCTUARY JURISDICTIONS

A “sanctuary city” or “sanctuary jurisdiction” is a city or jurisdiction that refuses to cooperate, or limits cooperation, with federal authorities in the enforcement of federal immigration law.¹³ Under the principle that “illegal aliens do not have the right to remain in the U.S. undetected and unapprehended,”¹⁴ Congress has explicitly prohibited any restriction on communication between state or local entities and federal immigration authorities relating to an individual’s immigration status.¹⁵

Despite the statute’s clear prohibition on cities, counties, and states from restricting communication with federal immigration authorities, there are, according to an estimate from the Center for Immigration Studies, upward of 200 such sanctuary jurisdictions in the United States. These jurisdictions:

[H]ave laws, ordinances, regulations, resolutions, policies, or other practices that obstruct immigration enforcement and shield criminals from [U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)]—either by refusing to or prohibiting agencies from complying with ICE detainers, imposing unreasonable conditions on detainer acceptance, denying ICE access to interview incarcerated aliens, or otherwise impeding communication or information exchanges between their personnel and federal immigration officers.¹⁶

Sanctuary jurisdictions range from entire states—such as Colorado, California, New York, and Illinois—to major cities—such as Chicago; New Orleans; New York, Newark, New Jersey; Washington, D.C.; Baltimore; and Seattle—to entire counties like Fairfax County, Virginia.¹⁷

Sanctuary jurisdictions’ refusal to cooperate with ICE, including by not honoring ICE detainers, means that dangerous aliens are released back onto American streets. To ensure that criminal aliens are safely apprehended and deported, ICE issues detainers for aliens who have been arrested and who ICE has “probable cause to believe . . . [are] removable” from the United States.¹⁸ With a detainer, ICE “sends a formal request to a law enforcement agency or correctional facility that has custody of a potentially dangerous alien” and asks the law enforcement agency to notify ICE “as early as possible before [the agency] release[s] a removable alien” and to “[h]old the alien for up to 48 hours beyond the time they would

¹³ See WILLIAM A. KANDEL, CONG. RSCH. SERV., IFI14328, “SANCTUARY” JURISDICTIONS: POLICY OVERVIEW (2020); see also SARAH PECK, CONG. RSCH. SERV., R44795, “SANCTUARY” JURISDICTIONS: FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL POLICIES AND RELATED LITIGATION 3-4 (2019).

¹⁴ H. Rep. No. 104-469, part 1, at 277 (1996).

¹⁵ See 8 U.S.C. § 1373(a).

¹⁶ Jessica M. Vaughan, *Map: Sanctuary Cities, Counties, and States*, CENTER FOR IMMIGR. STUDIES (June 29, 2026), <https://cis.org/Map-Sanctuary-Cities-Counties-and-States> (last accessed Aug. 7, 2026). The list of sanctuary jurisdictions compiled by the Center for Immigration Studies is broader than the Justice Department’s list.

¹⁷ *Id.*

¹⁸ *Immigr. Detainers*, U.S. Immigr. and Customs Enf’t, <https://www.ice.gov/immigration-detainers> (last accessed Aug. 28, 2026).

ordinarily release them so DHS has time to assume custody in accordance with federal immigration law.”¹⁹ Notably, these aliens are in the custody of a state or local law enforcement agency for a criminal offense—not because they entered the country illegally or otherwise lack lawful status.

Despite the effectiveness of detainers, in the first 12 months of President Trump’s second term, state and local law enforcement agencies declined at least 17,864 ICE detainers, including for aliens charged with crimes ranging from sexual assault to murder, according to ICE data.²⁰ In its 2019 report, ICE again warned that sanctuary jurisdictions were “[o]ne of the biggest impediments to [ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations] public safety efforts.”²¹ In addition to harming communities, refusing to honor ICE detainers also endangers law enforcement officers as they must resort to taking custody of the alien in an uncontrolled environment.²²

The Biden-Harris Administration worked to weaken the first Trump Administration’s efforts to hold sanctuary jurisdictions accountable for undermining immigration enforcement.²³ In addition to dropping federal litigation relating to sanctuary jurisdictions’ policies,²⁴ the Biden-Harris Administration’s Justice Department, beginning in April 2021, no longer required jurisdictions to cooperate with ICE as a condition of receiving federal grant funding.²⁵ The number of ICE detainers fell precipitously as a result, from a monthly average of 13,000 to 14,000 during the first Trump Administration to a mere 2,200 detainers in March 2021—just two months after President Biden took office.²⁶ Although the Biden-Harris Administration gradually increased its use of immigration detainers in response to public pressure against its immigration policies, it still issued 31 percent fewer detainers than the first Trump Administration.²⁷

¹⁹ *Id.*

²⁰ Info. provided to the H. Comm. on the Judiciary by U.S. Immigr. and Customs Enf’t, (Feb. 6, 2026) (on file with Comm.). The number of declined detainers is likely higher, given that ICE may not be aware that a detainer was declined until the agency encounters an alien who had previously been released.

²¹ See U.S. Immigr. and Customs Enf’t, Fiscal Year 2019 Enf’t and Removal Operations Rep., at 17 (2020), <https://www.ice.gov/sites/default/files/documents/Document/2019/eroReportFY2019.pdf>; see also U.S. Immigr. and Customs Enf’t, Fiscal Year 2020 Enf’t and Removal Operations Rep., at 17-18 (2021), <https://www.ice.gov/doclib/news/library/reports/annual-report/eroReportFY2020.pdf> (emphasizing the impact of non-cooperative jurisdictions).

²² See U.S. Immigr. and Customs Enf’t, Q&A: U.S. Immigr. and Customs Enf’t Declined Detainer Outcome Rep. (DDOR) (Mar. 20, 2017), <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2017/03/20/qa-us-immigration-and-customers-enforcement-declined-detainer-outcome-report>.

²³ See Sarah N. Lynch, *U.S. Justice Department ends Trump-era limits on grants to 'sanctuary cities'*, REUTERS (Apr. 28, 2021, 8:31 AM), <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/exclusive-us-justice-department-ends-trump-era-limits-grants-sanctuary-cities-2021-04-28/>.

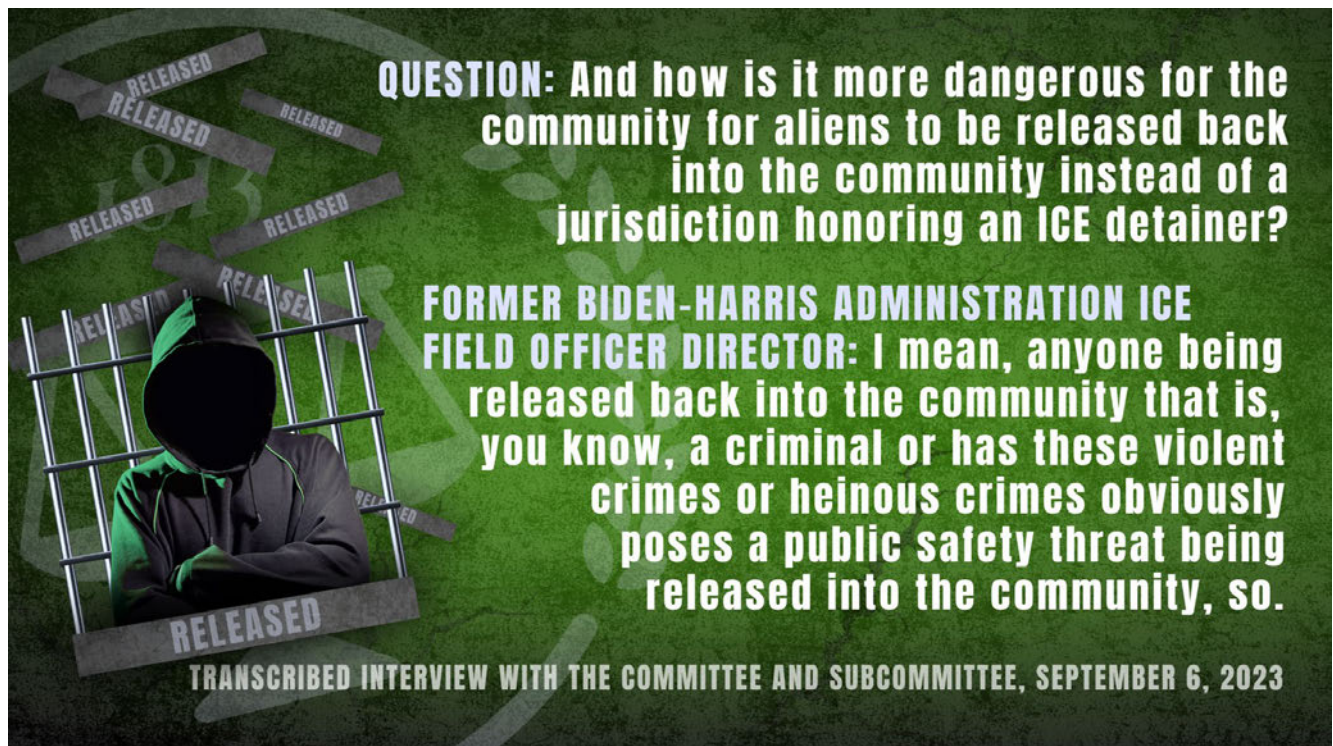
²⁴ Amy Howe, *Court dismisses “sanctuary cities” petitions*, SCOTUS BLOG (Mar. 5, 2021, 10:58 AM), <https://www.scotusblog.com/2021/03/court-dismisses-sanctuary-cities-petitions/>; see City Att’y of San Francisco, *Final victory for San Francisco in sanctuary city case against Trump administration* (Mar. 4, 2021), <https://www.sfcityattorney.org/2021/03/04/final-victory-for-san-francisco-in-sanctuary-city-case-against-trump-administration/>.

²⁵ See Lynch, *supra* note 23.

²⁶ *New Data on ICE Immigration Detainers Show Sharp Drop Since Start of Biden Administration*, TRAC IMMIGR. (June 20, 2023), <https://trac.syr.edu/reports/719/>.

²⁷ See U.S. Immigr. and Customs Enf’t, Fiscal Year 2024 ICE Enf’t and Removal Operations Rep., at 21 (Dec. 19, 2024), <https://www.ice.gov/doclib/eoy/iceAnnualReportFY2024.pdf>; U.S. Immigr. and Customs Enf’t, Fiscal Year 2018 ICE Enf’t and Removal Operations Rep., at 9, <https://www.ice.gov/doclib/about/offices/ero/pdf/eroFY2018Report.pdf>.

Even Biden-Harris Administration ICE officials criticized sanctuary policies for endangering the public and law enforcement alike. In a transcribed interview with the Committee in 2023, one former high-ranking ICE official testified that sanctuary jurisdictions' refusal to honor ICE detainers endangers ICE officers and undermines ICE's mission.²⁸ Another Biden-Harris Administration ICE official told the Committee how detainer noncompliance for violent criminals "poses a public safety threat being released into the community."²⁹ One former ICE official even attributed sanctuary policies to potentially undermining national security.³⁰ Another Biden-Harris Administration ICE official testified that ignoring ICE detainers endangers officers and the public because ICE is then forced to arrest criminal aliens at large in the community rather than in the secure setting of a jail or prison.³¹



Since the start of President Trump's second term, the federal government has acted swiftly against sanctuary policies. In an executive order signed on January 20, 2025, President Trump directed the Attorney General and DHS Secretary to "evaluate and undertake any lawful actions to ensure that so-called 'sanctuary' jurisdictions, which seek to interfere with the lawful exercise of Federal law enforcement operations, do not receive access to Federal funds."³²

²⁸ Transcribed Interview of Former ICE Official 1, U.S. Immigr. & Customs Enf't, at 79-80 (Sept. 22, 2023) (on file with Comm.).

²⁹ Transcribed Interview of Former ICE Official 2, U.S. Immigr. & Customs Enf't, at 36 (Sept. 6, 2023) (on file with Comm.).

³⁰ Transcribed Interview of Former ICE Official 3, U.S. Immigr. & Customs Enf't, at 23 (June 27, 2023) (on file with Comm.).

³¹ Transcribed Interview of Former ICE Official 4, U.S. Immigr. & Customs Enf't, at 87-88 (Oct. 10, 2023) (on file with Comm.).

³² Exec. Order No. 14159, Protecting the American People Against Invasion, 90 Fed. Reg. 8443 (Jan. 20, 2025), <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/protecting-the-american-people-against-invasion/>.

President Trump also instructed the Attorney General and DHS Secretary to “undertake any other lawful actions, criminal or civil, that they deem warranted based on any such jurisdiction’s practices that interfere with the enforcement of Federal law.”³³ On February 19, 2025, President Trump signed an additional executive order to “ensure[] that Federal funds to states and localities will not be used to support ‘sanctuary’ policies or assist illegal immigration.”³⁴

On April 28, 2025, President Trump signed another executive order that directed the Attorney General to “publish a list of States and local jurisdictions that obstruct the enforcement of Federal immigration laws,” “notify each sanctuary jurisdiction regarding its defiance of Federal immigration law enforcement and any potential violations of Federal criminal law,” and “pursue all necessary legal remedies and enforcement measures to end these violations and bring such jurisdictions into compliance” with federal law.³⁵ The Justice Department produced its initial list of sanctuary jurisdictions in August 2025.³⁶ The most recent list from October 2025 identified 11 states, the District of Columbia, three counties, and 18 cities—meaning that, conservatively, about one-third of the U.S. population lives under dangerous sanctuary policies.³⁷ The number of Americans living under sanctuary policies may actually be much higher, however, as the Center for Immigration Studies estimates that the number of sanctuary jurisdictions is closer to 200.³⁸

SANCTUARY POLICIES IN OREGON

Oregon’s Sanctuary Policies

The state of Oregon boasts that it “has been a sanctuary state since 1987.”³⁹ Oregon law prohibits state and local law enforcement from disclosing criminal aliens’ information to federal immigration officials,⁴⁰ limits immigration arrests at certain locations,⁴¹ forbids law enforcement from sharing criminal aliens’ release dates with federal officials,⁴² and prohibits compliance with ICE detainers.⁴³ Oregon views immigration detainers as insufficient unless they are accompanied by a judicial warrant, which is not required under federal law and is not possible in the

³³ *Id.*

³⁴ Fact Sheet, President Donald J. Trump Ends Taxpayer Subsidization of Open Borders, WHITE HOUSE (Feb. 19, 2025), <https://www.whitehouse.gov/fact-sheets/2025/02/fact-sheet-president-donald-j-trump-ends-taxpayer-subsidization-of-open-borders/>.

³⁵ Exec. Order No. 14287, Protecting American Communities from Criminal Aliens, 90 Fed. Reg. 18761 (Apr. 28, 2025), <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/05/02/2025-07789/protecting-american-communities-from-criminal-aliens?>.

³⁶ Press Release, Justice Department Publishes List of Sanctuary Jurisdictions, U.S. DEP’T OF JUSTICE (Aug. 5, 2025), <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-publishes-list-sanctuary-jurisdictions>.

³⁷ U.S. Sanctuary Jurisdiction List Following Executive Order 14287: Protecting American Communities From Criminal Aliens, U.S. Dep’t of Justice, <https://www.justice.gov/ag/us-sanctuary-jurisdiction-list-following-executive-order-14287-protecting-american-communities> (last accessed Oct. 6, 2026).

³⁸ See Vaughan, *supra* note 16.

³⁹ Or. Dep’t of Justice Sanctuary Promise Guidance, Or. Dep’t of Justice, <https://www.doj.state.or.us/oregon-department-of-justice/civil-rights/sanctuary-promise/> (last accessed Oct. 6, 2026).

⁴⁰ Or. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 180.805.

⁴¹ Or. Rev. Stat. Ann. §§ 180.810, 181A.828.

⁴² Or. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 181A.826.

⁴³ Or. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 181A.823; see Or. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 181A.820.

overwhelming majority of immigration cases unless a foreign national is charged with a *federal* crime.⁴⁴ In testimony to the Immigration Subcommittee in May 2026, former Virginia Attorney General Jason Miyares explained the impossibility of obtaining a judicial warrant for most criminal aliens:

Q: Well, is a federal judicial warrant possible to obtain in a state crime?

A: No, it's not, and they know this.

Q: And if deportation is a civil matter, how does one get a federal judicial warrant?

A: You can't. Again, they know this.

Q: So, they're basically lying to the public? They are counting on the public not understanding that what they are asking for is legally impossible?

A: It's legally impossible, yes, Mr. Chair.⁴⁵

The state of Oregon even promotes its Sanctuary Promise Violations Hotline, which allows foreign nationals and community members to report suspected violations of Oregon's pro-illegal alien policies.⁴⁶ The hotline is designed to empower anti-immigration enforcement activists and to harass local officials who cooperate with ICE.⁴⁷ Oregon notes that language "[i]nterpretation services are available in 240+ languages" for the hotline.⁴⁸

Oregon's sanctuary policies ensure that dangerous criminals are released from law enforcement custody and free to reoffend. According to 2022 data, "nearly 600 of the roughly 12,000 individuals in Oregon Dep[artment] of Corrections (DOC) custody at the time had an active [ICE] detainer."⁴⁹ In 2025, ICE arrested an illegal alien from Mexico with convictions for attempted sex abuse and intimidation based on his assault of a woman in Portland.⁵⁰ Despite an

⁴⁴ See *Fairfax Cnty., Va.: The Dangerous Consequences of Sanctuary Policies: Hearing Before the Subcomm. on Immigr. Integrity, Security, and Enf't of the H. Comm. on the Judiciary*, 119th Cong. (May 14, 2026) (testimony of former Va. Att'y Gen. Jason Miyares).

⁴⁵ *Id.*

⁴⁶ See Sanctuary Promise Violations Hotline, Or. Dep't of Justice, <https://www.doj.state.or.us/oregon-department-of-justice/civil-rights/sanctuary-promise/reporting-sanctuary-promise-violations-to-the-hotline/#form> (last accessed Oct. 6, 2026).

⁴⁷ See Why Report Sanctuary Promise Violations?, Or. Dep't of Justice, <https://www.doj.state.or.us/oregon-department-of-justice/civil-rights/sanctuary-promise/why-report/> (last accessed Oct. 6, 2026).

⁴⁸ See *id.*

⁴⁹ Wright Gazaway, *Salem divided over whether Oregon should facilitate ICE transfers in state prisons*, KATU 2 ABC (Mar. 16, 2026, 1:28 PM), <https://katu.com/news/investigations/salem-divided-over-whether-oregon-should-facilitate-ice-transfers-in-state-prisons>.

⁵⁰ Press Release, ICE Arrests Criminal Illegal Alien and Convicted Sex Offender Who Sexually Assaulted Woman on Independence Day, U.S. Dep't of Homeland Sec. (July 4, 2025), <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2025/07/04/ice-arrests-criminal-illegal-alien-and-convicted-sex-offender-who-sexually>.

ICE detainer, DOC allowed the convicted felon back onto Oregon streets instead of releasing him to federal immigration officials.⁵¹ Documents obtained by the Committee and Subcommittee reveal that DOC has declined dozens of detainers for other criminals in its custody since 2022.⁵² Oregon's prohibition on honoring ICE detainers continues even though DOC has received detainers for aliens with convictions that include rape, felony DUI, racketeering, strangulation, stalking, sexual abuse, assault, burglary, and murder.⁵³

The current or former adults in custody (AIC) that fall under the request in #3 who received judgements sentencing them to the custody of ODOC had convictions for the following crimes:

ASSA IV CF	DRIV S/R N	STLK/CRT F	DCS/MCS BF
STRANG FEL	ARSON I	EN FAPA RO	RAPE I
COERCION	MANS I	SEXAB1 NAT	INCEST
HIND PROS	CHILD SEX1	MISTREAT I	ASSA III
RACKETEER	ROBB II	SEXAB2 N	SODO III
WEAP USE	BURG I	FAIL PERF	LURING MIN
ROBB II AT	ELUDE POLI	ASSA I	RAPE III
UN USE VEH	SEXAB1 N	MURDER II	CORR CHLD2
DUII-FELON	PUB INDEC	SODO I	
MISCH I	BURG II	BURG I AT	

The current and former adults in custody (AIC) who fall under the request in #3 and who received judgements sentencing them to the custody of the local supervisory authority had convictions for the following crimes:

PPSV SANC	HARASS AG	FA-SH BARR	ASSA II AT
POSS METH	DRIV INTOX	MENACING	

The current and former adults on supervision who fall under the request in #3 and who received judgements sentencing them to probation had convictions for the following crimes:

KID II AT				
ASSA 3 BF	POS METH	SEXAB3 N	FELON WEAP	ASSA IV
ASSA OFFAT	HARASS	INTERF RPT		

Above: Information provided to the Committee and Subcommittee by the Oregon Department of Corrections shows the ICE detainers that DOC received and declined to honor from 2022 to the present, including the criminal histories of the aliens for whom the detainers were placed.

⁵¹ See *id.*

⁵² Info. provided to H. Comm. on the Judiciary by Oregon Dep't of Corrections (July 7, 2026) (on file with Comm.).

⁵³ *Id.*

Portland's Sanctuary Policies

Portland also proudly promotes sanctuary policies, which the Portland City Council codified on October 15, 2025.⁵⁴ The city of Portland's pro-illegal alien policies "[p]rohibit all City employees from assisting any federal agency with immigration enforcement"; "[p]rohibit City resources to be used for such purpose"; "[r]equire the creation of policies, trainings, and resources to guide how the City must handle interactions with immigration enforcement agents"; "[r]equire the posting of signage to clarify public/private spaces"; "[r]equire Portland Police Bureau to report any exceptions to or violations of the prohibition on assisting with immigration enforcement activities"; "[d]irect the City to place Freedom of Information Act Requests to DHS and ICE"; and "[d]irect the Office of Government Relations to advocate for Congress to pass legislation that would increase federal safeguards for respecting the civil rights and protecting the public safety of our community."⁵⁵



The City of Portland encourages people to call a hotline if they encounter ICE. The poster is provided in eight languages, including Somali (pictured above).

⁵⁴ See Portland Is a Sanctuary City, Portland, Or., <https://www.portland.gov/federal/sanctuary-city> (last accessed Oct. 6, 2026).

⁵⁵ *Id.*

As part of its sanctuary initiative, Portland provides instructions in eight different languages for how people may call the Portland Immigrant Rights Coalition if they or someone they know encounters ICE.⁵⁶ The city also promotes “Know Your Rights” cards in 59 languages, which state in part: “I do not wish to speak with you, answer your questions, or sign or hand you any documents based on my 5th Amendment rights under the United States Constitution.”⁵⁷

What if a person without documentation is arrested for a crime? Will PPB hand the individual over to ICE?

No. Should officers learn about an individual’s immigration status either by voluntary statement or other means, officers shall not arrest a person for the sole reason that they are in the United States without legal documentation.

Officers shall not honor or comply with federal agency immigration detainer requests.

Above: The Portland Police Bureau prohibits its officers from “honor[ing] or comply[ing] with federal agency immigration detainer requests.”

Because of Oregon’s and Portland’s sanctuary laws and policies, the Portland Police Bureau (PPB) has for years prohibited its officers from honoring ICE detainers and otherwise cooperating with ICE.⁵⁸ PPB even directs people who witness ICE activity to call an organization that advocates for ICE’s abolishment.⁵⁹ Shortly after President Trump began his second term, PPB reminded its officers that they were “barred from any participation in ICE immigration activities due to state and local prohibitions” and warned them not to contact ICE if they encountered an immigration warrant, even if the individual was detained for a crime.⁶⁰

As a result, during everyday policing activities, you may encounter someone who has an ICE administrative arrest warrant now entered in this system and you have no state or federal criminal charges on the person. You cannot serve or arrest anyone on these warrants. Arrests on these warrants can only be made by federal agents/officers with immigration authority. You cannot notify federal agents/officers that you have detained a person who may be subject to these warrants. You may arrest individuals for any

⁵⁶ *Id.*

⁵⁷ See Red Cards/Tarjetas Rojas, Immigr. Legal Resource Center, <https://www.ilrc.org/redcards> (last accessed Oct. 6, 2026); see also Portland Is a Sanctuary City, Portland, Or., <https://www.portland.gov/federal/sanctuary-city> (last accessed Oct. 6, 2026).

⁵⁸ See FAQ-PPB’s Role and Guidelines Regarding Immigr. Enf’t, Bureau of Police, Portland, Or., <https://www.portland.gov/police/documents/immigration-faq/download> (last accessed June 15, 2026).

⁵⁹ Resources for Immigrant and Refugee Communities, Portland Police Bureau, <https://www.portland.gov/police/cag/ofa-info> (last accessed Oct. 22, 2026); see Our History, Portland Immigr. Rights Coalition, <https://pircoregon.org/> (last accessed Oct. 22, 2026).

⁶⁰ E-mail from Assistant Chief of Operations, Portland Police Bureau, to PPB (Feb. 26, 2025), provided to H. Comm. on the Judiciary (Aug. 31, 2026) (on file with Comm.).

criminal act recognized by state law, just as you may arrest for a warrant for a criminal violation, but you cannot arrest any individual on an ICE administrative warrant.⁶¹

PPB has also seemingly discouraged its officers from even shaking hands with their federal counterparts, emphasizing that the ordinary professional courtesy would “likely raise eyebrows within the community and will garner attention.”⁶²

Question 3:

What do I do if a federal officer involved in immigration wants to shake my hand during our contact?

Answer:

As members of the Portland Police Bureau, we are expected to treat every person, be it a member of law enforcement or a member of our community with courtesy, respect and professionalism. The Chief's office will never instruct you not to shake the hand of another person, no matter what their job or status.

Ultimately this is a judgement call for each member to make on their own. The optics of our members shaking the hand of an ICE agent in a mask will likely raise eyebrows within the community and will garner attention. We only want to make sure people are aware of this possibility when they are making their decision.

Above: The Portland Police Bureau is so concerned about the anti-immigration activists in Oregon that it cautions its officers against shaking hands with federal law enforcement officers.

The Multnomah County Sheriff's Office (MCSO), the county that includes Portland, also does not comply with ICE detainers or cooperate with ICE.⁶³ The MCSO informs aliens of its noncooperation with ICE in six languages, including Spanish, Arabic, Chinese, Russian,

⁶¹ *Id.* (emphases in original).

⁶² PPB FAQ: Contacts with ICE or Other Federal Enf't Activity (Nov. 12, 2025), provided to H. Comm. on the Judiciary (July 7, 2026) (on file with Comm.).

⁶³ Multnomah Cnty. Sheriff's Off. Agency Manual, 700.00, Enf't of Immigr. and Customs Enf't (ICE) Detainers, <https://public.powerdms.com/MultnomahCounty/tree/documents/1753559>; see 700.00 – Enf't of Immigr. and Customs Enf't (ICE) Detainers, Stakeholder Rev., 11/13/24-12/13/24, <https://www.mcso.us/sites/default/files/2024-11/700.00%20Enforcement%20of%20Immigration%20and%20Customs%20Enforcement%20Detainers%20Stakeholder%20Review%20111324-121324.pdf> (“As a result, MCSO does not hold individuals in custody on the basis of Immigration and Customs Enforcement Detainers or use its facilities, property, monies, equipment, technology or personnel for the purpose of investigating, detecting, apprehending, arresting, detaining or holding individuals for immigration enforcement.”).

Ukrainian, and Vietnamese, on its website.⁶⁴

نبذة عن إنفاذ قوانين الهجرة وإنفاذ القانون المحلي

لا تطبق سلطات إنفاذ القانون المحلية، وفرق المدينة والمقاطعة والولاية، بما في ذلك مكتب مأمور مقاطعة مولتنوماه (MCSO)، قوانين الهجرة الفيدرالية ولا تعمل مع سلطات إنفاذ قوانين الهجرة والجمارك (ICE). ويمنع قانون ولاية أوريغون الوكالات المحلية من التعاون مع أوامر الاحتجاز الصادرة عن وكالة إنفاذ قوانين الهجرة والجمارك (ICE).

لا تحتجز مكاتب مأموريات أوريغون الأشخاص في السجن بناءً على وضعهم كمهاجرين فقط.

على غرار العديد من وكالات إنفاذ القانون المحلية الأخرى في ولاية أوريغون، فإن الهدف الأساسي لمكتب مأمور شرطة ولاية أوريغون هو الحفاظ على سلامة مجتمعنا وبناء الثقة مع كل من يعيش في مقاطعة مولتنوماه.

關於移民執法與地方執法

地方執法機構、您所在城市、郡（縣）及州執法團隊（包括Multnomah郡警長辦公室MCSO），不會執行聯邦移民法，也不與移民暨海關執法局（ICE）合作。根據Oregon州法律，地方機關不得與ICE合作執行拘留令。

Oregon州警長辦公室不會僅因個人移民身份而將其拘留。

如同Oregon州的許多地方執法機構，MCSO的首要目標是確保社區安全，並與所有居住在Multnomah郡的居民建立信任關係。

Об иммиграционной службе и местных правоохранительных органах

Сотрудники местных правоохранительных органов, органов власти вашего города, округа и штата, включая Управление шерифа округа Малтнома (Multnomah County Sheriff's Office, MCSO), не осуществляют контроль за исполнением федерального иммиграционного законодательства и не сотрудничают с Иммиграционной и таможенной полицией США (Immigration and Customs Enforcement, ICE). Законодательство штата Орегон не допускает выполнения местными органами приказов ICE о содержании под стражей.

Управления шерифов в штате Орегон не содержат людей в тюрьмах исключительно на основании их иммиграционного статуса.

Основная цель MCSO, как и многих других местных правоохранительных органов Орегона, заключается в поддержании безопасности в сообществе и формировании доверия в отношениях со всеми жителями округа Малтнома.

Above: The Multnomah County Sheriff's Office informs foreign nationals of its noncooperation with ICE in six languages, including in Arabic, Chinese, and Russian (pictured above).

⁶⁴ Frequently asked questions about federal immigration and the Sheriff's Office, Multnomah Cnty. Sheriff's Off., <https://www.mcso.us/public-information/frequently-asked-questions-about-federal-immigration-and-sheriffs-office> (last accessed Oct. 6, 2026).

Although MCSO “will not inquire into a person’s immigration status for the purpose of enforcing federal immigration law,” it allows its officers to “inquire into a person’s country of birth” for purposes of notifying a foreign national’s consulate.⁶⁵ In other words, MCSO prohibits its officers from cooperating with U.S. law enforcement to notify ICE but is more than happy to facilitate cooperation with foreign governments to notify dozens of consulates around the world.

Below: The Multnomah County Sheriff’s Office prohibits officers from asking about a foreign national criminal’s immigration status for purposes of enforcing federal law but allows officers to ask about an individual’s country of birth to cooperate with a foreign government.

Procedure:

1. Immigration Status Inquiries in the Field:
 - 1.1. Multnomah County Sheriff’s Office (MCSO) members will not inquire into a person’s immigration status for the purpose of enforcing federal immigration law.
2. Country of Birth Inquiries in Jail Facilities:
 - 2.1. Multnomah County Sheriff’s Office members assigned to the Corrections Division, will inquire into a person’s country of birth during the classification process, before reporting the self-identified country of birth to the Records Unit. MCSO is obligated to inquire per the Law Enforcement Database System (LEDS) and National Crime Information Center (NCIC) requirements and pursuant to treaties regarding consular notification. Prior to inquiring, members shall inform an arrestee in writing (with interpretation into another language if requested) that they are not required to disclose their country of origin, nationality, or citizenship status and that any information disclosed could be used for federal, civil, or criminal enforcement proceedings, including removal from the United States.

Deaths of Billy Carter and Jennifer Lynn Lower

Oregon’s lack of cooperation with federal immigration officials and attraction of illegal aliens has had deadly consequences for years. In 2018, MCSO ignored an ICE detainer and released an illegal alien who had been arrested for felony domestic violence.⁶⁶ Seven months after his release, the criminal alien murdered his wife.⁶⁷

More recently, on November 24, 2025, an illegal alien who had been issued a commercial driver’s license by the California Department of Motor Vehicles “jackknifed his semi-truck and trailer, blocking both lanes of” an Oregon highway.⁶⁸ Newlyweds Billy Carter and Jennifer

⁶⁵ Multnomah Cnty. Sheriff’s Off., 700.00 – Enf’t of Immigr. and Customs Enf’t (ICE) Detainers, provided to H. Comm. on the Judiciary by Multnomah Cnty. Sheriff’s Off. (July 7, 2026) (on file with Comm.).

⁶⁶ Will Racke, *EXCLUSIVE: ICE Says Oregon Authorities Released Illegal Alien Despite Detainer — 7 Months Later, He Allegedly Killed His Wife*, DAILY CALLER (Nov. 2, 2018, 6:54 AM), <https://dailycaller.com/2018/11/02/oregon-illegal-sanctuary-murdered-wife/>.

⁶⁷ *Id.*

⁶⁸ Press Release, ICE Arrests Illegal Alien Semi-Truck Driver Who Killed Honeymooners in Oregon After Sanctuary Politicians Released Him From Jail, U.S. Dep’t of Homeland Sec. (Apr. 28, 2026), <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2026/04/28/ice-arrests-illegal-alien-semi-truck-driver-who-killed-honeymooners-oregon-after>.

Lower were killed when their car crashed into the truck.⁶⁹ The alien, Rajinder Kumar, “entered the U.S. illegally near Lukeville, Arizona on November 28, 2022,” and was released by the Biden-Harris Administration.⁷⁰



After the crash, “Kumar was charged with five counts, including felony manslaughter and recklessly endangering another person.”⁷¹ While ICE “lodged a detainer with the Deschutes County Jail,” that detainer was not honored pursuant to Oregon sanctuary policies, and on April 2, 2026, local officials released Kumar.⁷² ICE arrested Kumar in Bend, Oregon, on April 22, 2026.⁷³ In testimony before the Subcommittee in September 2026, Billy’s mother, Elizabeth Carter, questioned why politicians preferred to risk the lives of Americans instead of enforcing federal law:

People keep mentioning that we’re not deporting the worst of the worst, that we’re deporting people who don’t have criminal records. Mr. Kumar did not have a criminal record before Billy and Jenny were killed. He was supposed to keep a logbook. He was supposed to have another driver in the cab with him. The first time he got caught not doing those things was the night he killed my son and daughter in law. We are rolling the dice with our children rather than

⁶⁹ *Id.*

⁷⁰ *Id.*

⁷¹ Kyle Iboshi, *Truck driver charged in deadly Central Oregon crash ordered deported, may never face trial*, KGW8 (July 2, 2026, 6:46 PM), <https://www.kgw.com/article/news/investigations/truck-driver-charged-deadly-central-oregon-crash-ordered-deported/283-8735d5a8-a053-429d-b21c-b5aefbe57d1a>.

⁷² Form I-213, Record of Deportable/Inadmissible Alien, for Rajinder Kumar, provided to H. Comm. on the Judiciary (Sept. 4, 2026) (on file with Comm.).

⁷³ *Id.*

say follow the Federal law and apply to immigrate into the U.S. from your country of origin. Why do they have to apply inside our borders, putting our children at risk?⁷⁴

Portland's Preferential Prosecution of Criminal Aliens

Under the direction of former Multnomah County District Attorney Mike Schmidt and current District Attorney Nathan Vasquez, foreign national criminals in Portland have received preferential treatment for years—all so that they can avoid deportation and remain in the U.S. indefinitely. Under Vasquez's current policies, prosecutors in his office “are to consider the immigration consequences to a defendant in resolving cases, to the extent they are aware of them, and, if appropriate, take reasonable steps to seek an immigration-neutral resolution once informed that such consequences may exist.”⁷⁵ Although Vasquez claims that the policy “is not meant to convey that non-citizens should be given more lenient sentences,”⁷⁶ the consideration of immigration consequences is not available to U.S. citizens. Even for non-U.S. citizens, the policy is not applied uniformly, as Vasquez advises that “a disposition that may be acceptable to all parties in one case may be severely damaging in another.”⁷⁷ The “[p]otential immigration consequences vary based on a number of factors, including but not limited to the person's current immigration status, length of presence in the U.S., family ties, and prior criminal history.”⁷⁸

In training materials from November 2022, under former District Attorney Schmidt, the office gave several examples of alternative considerations based on “immigration neutral plea bargaining.”⁷⁹ These alternatives included:

- i. Devising an alternative plea agreement that is of a similar nature and consequence to the originally charged offense which is also established by the underlying evidence, including amending the charging document if necessary;
- ii. Allowing a plea to a different charge within the same indictment, provided that the overall penalty is roughly comparable;
- iii. Eliminating multiple counts of the same charge, where appropriate and consistent with public safety, to avoid immigration consequences that may attach to multiple convictions (particularly of “crimes of moral turpitude”);
- iv. Allowing language to be amended in a charging document, plea

⁷⁴ *The Continuing Tragedy of Sanctuary Laws: Hearing Before the Subcomm. on Immigr. Integrity, Security, and Enft. of the H. Comm. on the Judiciary*, 119th Cong. (Sept. 15, 2026) (statement of Elizabeth Carter).

⁷⁵ Policy Manual, Multnomah Cnty. District Att'y's Off., 11.3 Plea Bargaining (revised June 22, 2026), provided to H. Comm. on the Judiciary by Multnomah Cnty. District Att'y's Office (July 7, 2026) (on file with Comm.).

⁷⁶ *Id.*

⁷⁷ *Id.*

⁷⁸ *Id.*

⁷⁹ Immigr. Reform CLE, Multnomah Cnty. District Att'y's Off. (November 17, 2022), provided to H. Comm. on the Judiciary by Multnomah Cnty. District Att'y's Off. (July 7, 2026) (on file with Comm.).

agreement, or plea colloquy while maintaining the truthfulness of the remaining charging language (such as mens rea language, i.e. recklessly vs. knowingly; specifying particular weapons, i.e. ballistic knife; specifying particular controlled substances or omitting such information);

v. Allowing for flexibility in sentencing within a proportionate or agreed upon range, such as allowing defendants to waive credit for time served, or imposing any custodial or prison terms on specific counts;

vi. Allowing for flexibility in sentencing at the time of probation violation to charge a new count rather than requiring a sentence on the violation;

vii. Allowing for flexibility in contempt proceedings to charge a criminal offense in lieu of a finding of contempt if established by the underlying facts;

vii. Allowing time for successful completion of rehabilitative program or programs, including community service, to address underlying issues behind the problematic conduct as an additional condition of probation not in lieu of jail time[.]⁸⁰

The training also promoted the inconsistent application of the office’s immigration policies by noting there is “no one-size fits all solutions” and “what works for one client probably won’t work for the next.”⁸¹ The training showed that the “solution” would differ among “John Doe from Mexico,” “Jane Doe from Mexico,” and “John Doe from Belize,” all of whom had different criminal histories and varying immigration statuses.⁸² In other words, the office not only treats foreign nationals differently than U.S. citizens but also tailors prosecutions based around a foreign national’s specific immigration status. This *ad hoc* and inconsistent approach to making prosecutorial decisions based on immigration consequences significantly raises the risk for differential treatment among criminal defendants, as well as potential civil rights violations.

The Multnomah County District Attorney’s Office also “does not have a policy or practice of notifying or alerting immigration officials or agencies regarding individuals . . . with whom [it] come[s] into contact.”⁸³ Nonetheless, Vasquez’s policies emphasize that the office “has certain obligations under state, federal, and international law” when suspects, victims, and witnesses are foreign nationals, including “the mandatory notification of consulates for 58

⁸⁰ *Id.*

⁸¹ *Id.*

⁸² *See id.*

⁸³ Policy Manual, Multnomah Cnty. District Att’y’s Off., 11.5 Contact with Federal Immigr. Authorities (revised June 22, 2026), provided to H. Comm. on the Judiciary by Multnomah Cnty. District Att’y’s Office (July 7, 2026) (on file with Comm.).

countries.”⁸⁴ This consular notification policy stands in stark contrast to Vasquez’s blatant lack of formal cooperation with U.S. immigration officials.⁸⁵

11.2. Consular Notification

This office will encounter criminal suspects, victims and witnesses who are citizens of foreign countries. When this happens, our office has certain obligations under state, federal, and international law.

International law requires that arrested criminal defendants be notified of their right to contact the consulate of their native country, and to have local authorities assist them in notifying that consulate if they so desire. Certain bilateral treaties also require the mandatory notification of consulates for 58 countries. As of 2025 those countries are:

Albania	Kiribati	Ukraine
Algeria	Kuwait	United Kingdom
Antigua and Barbuda	Kyrgyzstan	Uzbekistan
Armenia	Malaysia	Zambia
Azerbaijan	Malta	Zimbabwe
Bahamas	Mauritius	
Barbados	Moldova	
Belarus	Mongolia	
Belize	Nigeria	
Brunei	Philippines	
Bulgaria	Poland	
China (including	Romania	
Macao and Hong	Russia	
Kong)	Saint Kitts and Nevis	
Costa Rica	Saint Lucia	
Cyprus	Saint Vincent and the	
Czech Republic	Grenadines	
Dominica	Seychelles	
Fiji	Sierra Leone	
Gambia	Slovakia	
Georgia	Tajikistan	
Ghana	Tanzania	
Grenada	Tonga	
Guyana	Trinidad and Tobago	
Hungary	Tunisia	
Jamaica	Turkmenistan	
Kazakhstan	Tuvalu	

Above: Although Vasquez’s office does not cooperate with ICE, its policy includes strict adherence to consular notifications for foreign nationals of 58 countries.

⁸⁴ Policy Manual, Multnomah Cnty. District Att’y’s Off., 11.2 Consular Notification (revised June 22, 2026), provided to H. Comm. on the Judiciary by Multnomah Cnty. District Att’y’s Office (July 7, 2026) (on file with Comm.).

⁸⁵ See *id.*

CONCLUSION

Democrats' open-borders policies and sanctuary jurisdictions have had devastating consequences for U.S. citizens. Even after the American people resoundingly rejected Democrats' pro-illegal alien policies in November 2024, Democrats across the country reinforced sanctuary policies to ensure that the millions of illegal aliens who entered the U.S. are never removed from the country. Oregon is just one example of Democrats' efforts to erase national borders and undermine immigration enforcement. Meanwhile, President Trump and House and Senate Republicans continue to work on commonsense solutions to secure the border, enforce federal immigration law, and protect American communities.

On March 5, 2026, the Committee favorably reported H.R. 7640, the Shut Down Sanctuary Policies Act. The Shut Down Sanctuary Policies Act protects American communities by prohibiting state and local laws and policies that restrict cooperation with federal immigration officials. The bill also would defend cooperative jurisdictions from frivolous lawsuits from sanctuary officials, allow jurisdictions to receive federal funding if they do not thwart federal law, and give much-needed relief to victims of sanctuary policies. The Committee will continue its oversight into sanctuary jurisdictions that prioritize the comfort of illegal alien criminals over the safety of U.S. citizens.