

SB 168: Federal Immigration Enforcement

Advance Comprehensive Immigration Reform: Social workers see the impact of immigrant and refugee policies in their everyday practice and have a special interest in the effect of immigration policies on families and children. We support policies that ensure children do not grow up permanently disadvantaged by the immigration status of their parents. In keeping with this principle, NASW opposes all efforts that would lead to the separation of mixed status immigrant families because of minor infractions; immigrant families should not suffer the penalties of deportation because of family-related immigrant status. *(Sponsored by the Committees on Infrastructure and Security; and Judiciary; and Senators Gruters, Bean, and Mayfield)*

What is the purpose of SB 168?

- ▶ Sanctuary cities and counties (and in some instances, states) have policies in place that limit cooperation with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement .
- ▶ The bill would require complying with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention requests and repealing current sanctuary policies. and public sector, with another dozen counties, cities and towns offering a part of those protections.

How would SB 168 work?

- ▶ SB 168 requires every Florida county and municipality to expend maximum local resources to enforce federal immigration law and participate in civic liberties violations. Moreover, it does not provide any funding or reimbursement for its costly mandate. Specifically, this bill provides that no state entity, law enforcement agency, local government entity, state university, or representative thereof may adopt or have a "sanctuary policy." (* Florida ACLU)

What do people say about SB 168?

- ▶ "We opposed this bill at its first hearing. And we will continue to oppose this bill as it moves through the process," said **Senate Democratic Leader Audrey Gibson** (D-Jacksonville), following an emergency meeting during the Senate Floor session today to take a Caucus position in opposition to SB 168. "The vote of the Caucus signals our unwavering commitment to the protection of immigrants in this state, and a repudiation of the scapegoating of immigrants in this country."
- ▶ Senators **Annette Taddeo** and **Jose Javier Rodriguez**, both of Miami, agreed. "The Senate Democratic Caucus stands in unanimous opposition to this anti-immigrant legislation being pushed by the governor and certain lawmakers," they said. "We stand with our local governments and law enforcement agencies who see this for what it is. And we call on our colleagues to focus on real problems that impact Floridians' lives, not some phantom issue designed solely to sow fear and placate a political base."

According to the Pew Research Center, nearly half of the approximately 11 million undocumented immigrants living in the U.S. last year resided in three states: California, with 2.2 million; Texas, with 1.6 million; and Florida, with 775,000.

Vote NO on SB 168 / HB 527!