

BY FAX OR E-MAIL

January 22, 2016

Representative Steve Crisafulli
Speaker of the House
420 The Capitol
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300

Re: CS-CS-HB 675

Dear Speaker of the House Crisafulli,

On behalf of the Anti-Defamation League (“ADL”), we urge the House of Representatives to oppose Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for House Bill 675, “An act relating to federal immigration enforcement” (“CS-CS-HB 675”), when it is heard on January 26th.

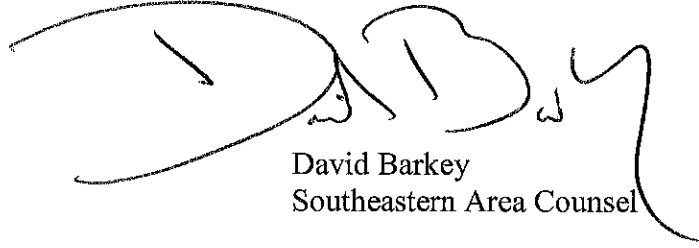
ADL is the nation’s leading civil rights and human relations organization combating anti-Semitism and all forms of bigotry, as well as promoting understanding and diversity throughout the United States and abroad. Since its founding in 1913, ADL has advocated for fair and humane immigration policies that honor our values as a nation of immigrants.

We have long advocated for keeping immigration enforcement at the federal level, allowing local law enforcement to establish and foster trust with the communities they serve and protect. As the largest non-governmental trainer of police on hate crimes, we know well the importance of establishing and maintaining trust between local law enforcement and the communities they have sworn to serve and protect. Entangling local police with immigration enforcement jeopardizes the trust these agencies require to operate effectively.

Laws and policies that effectively require local law enforcement to enforce immigration law threaten to create an underclass of people who do not have open access to police protection. If undocumented immigrants - and those in their families or larger communities - do not feel they can trust the police, they become uniquely vulnerable to further attacks because they have little legal recourse. Policies that entangle local law enforcement with immigration enforcement could deter undocumented immigrants and United States citizens who have family members who are undocumented from having any contact with the police. When immigrant communities start to fear local law enforcement, rather than to trust them, society in general becomes less safe.

Relationships of trust between local communities and law enforcement agencies are what build safe and secure societies. To help ensure the safety of Florida cities and counties, we urge the House of Representatives to oppose CS-CS-HB 675.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Barkey', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

David Barkey
Southeastern Area Counsel

cc: Florida House of Representatives
