

July 6, 2016

Re: Vote NO on Stop Dangerous Sanctuary Cities Act (S. 3100) – Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program Funding at Risk

Dear Senator:

We, the undersigned national organizations representing elected officials and a broad spectrum of housing and community development organizations urge you to oppose the Stop Dangerous Sanctuary Cities Act, (S. 3100) introduced by Senator Toomey, when the bill is considered on the Senate floor. This misguided proposal would punish communities that have immigrant “sanctuary” laws and policies in place by stripping them of federal funding provided through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program.

Since being established in 1974, the CDBG program has strengthened thousands of communities across America, and has assisted hundreds of millions of people with low and moderate incomes. CDBG is a valued program, contributing to local economies, serving households in need, maintaining and stabilizing neighborhoods, and providing the flexibility to develop partnerships and projects that are vital to the well-being of communities nationwide.

While the purported goal of S. 3100 is to make America’s communities more secure, the bill does anything but. Instead, S. 3100 will undermine local efforts to improve the safety and quality of life of residents by depriving communities of CDBG funding needed to undertake initiatives to stabilize neighborhoods and provide decent affordable housing for low income households. Our government should not play politics with communities’ ability to serve their residents by holding essential CDBG funding hostage.

For these reasons, we ask that you reject S. 3100.

Sincerely,

American Planning Association
Arc of the United States
Council of State Community Development Agencies
Enterprise Community Partners
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – Advocacy Office
Habitat for Humanity International
National Alliance of Community Economic Development Associations
National Association for County Community and Economic Development
National Association of Development Organizations
National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials
National Association of Local Housing Finance Agencies
National Community Development Association
National Community Reinvestment Coalition
National Development Council
National Fair Housing Alliance
National Housing Law Project
National League of Cities
National Low Income Housing Coalition
National Recreation and Park Association
National Urban League
U.S. Conference of Mayors