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Shuster Cosponsors Bill Targeting Sanctuary Cities

Washington, D.C. – **Congressman Bill Shuster** is pleased to announce that he has signed on as a cosponsor the “Accountability in Enforcing Immigration Laws Act of 2007;” legislation to crack down on ‘sanctuary cities’ that facilitate illegal immigration.

“Sanctuary cities subvert our immigration laws and stonewall efforts to coordinate between state and federal law enforcement to crack down on illegal immigration,” Shuster said. “Across America, the public is calling on Congress to secure our borders and enforce our laws. Sanctuary cities represent a weak link in our national immigration policy that must be fixed.”

A ‘sanctuary city’ is defined as one where the municipal government, as a matter of policy, does not allow police or municipal employees to inquire about the immigration status of those within its jurisdiction. Worse, sanctuary cities also deny cooperation between local law enforcement and federal immigration officers seeking to enforce the law.

H.R. 3531 would clarify that state law enforcement has the authority to investigate, identify, apprehend, arrest, detain, and transfer illegal immigrants to federal authorities. Additionally, the legislation would allow the Department of Homeland Security to revoke up to 50 % of a sanctuary city’s non-emergency Homeland Security funding if they continue to obstruct immigration law. Also, to stress the importance of immigration enforcement, H.R. 3531 would make illegal immigration a felony.

“Many of our immigration problems could be fixed immediately if all levels of government across the country enforce our existing immigration laws,” Shuster said. “This legislation will force sanctuary cities like San Francisco and others to stop their willful obstruction of the law and answer to the will of the American people.”

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