

FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

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FLEOA: California Policies are Endangering Federal Law Enforcement Officers' Lives

Washington, D.C. – The Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association (FLEOA) – a not-for-profit, non-political professional association representing over 26,000 active and retired federal law enforcement officers across 65 agencies – today released the following statement denouncing recent efforts by California lawmakers to prevent state and local law enforcement from cooperating with federal immigration authorities.

“First it was California cities declaring themselves sanctuaries, then it was the State of California that restricted cooperation with federal law enforcement,” said FLEOA National President Nathan R. Catura. **“What will be next? Refusing to cooperate in the arrest of drug dealers if that becomes politically expedient?”**

FLEOA strongly supports both Attorney General Sessions' comments to the California Peace Officers Association in support of the federal law enforcement community and the Department of Justice's pending lawsuit against California.

Catura continued, **“FLEOA's members include officers within both ICE and U.S. Customs and Border Protection. Our federal officers are sworn to uphold the laws of our country and to protect the public, and they do so on a daily basis. By restricting cooperation between state law enforcement entities and federal immigration officers, a basic trust is violated. In these dangerous times for law enforcement, the sharing of information, open communication, and operational cooperation are some of the only advantages law enforcement officers have over our adversaries. The other advantage is surprise and unpredictability.”**

“This edge was intentionally removed when Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf blatantly disregarded the lives of law enforcement officers (and the public she swore to protect) by publically disclosing the details of an enforcement operation. It is unconscionable that Mayor Schaaf intentionally placed the lives of federal law enforcement officers at grave risk by her reckless actions, thereby directly endangering the lives of the officers involved in the operation,” Catura explained.

“Thank God this potentially deadly scenario did not result in the death of one of our officers, an innocent 3rd party, or even that of a released, dangerous felon,” said Catura. **“These are not idle words. Indeed, last year, Veronica Cabrera Ramirez was tragically murdered by her boyfriend, Nery Estrada Margos, because the Sonoma County Sheriff's Department intentionally disregarded an ICE detainer they filed for him.”**

“When, not if, a California or federal law enforcement officer is murdered because of California's fanatical policies, the blood will be on the hands of Governor Brown, Attorney General Becerra, Mayor Schaaf, and the other California politicians who support obstructing federal immigration law,” Catura concluded. **“In addition, by preventing employers from assisting our agents when they are conducting investigations, the longstanding cooperative relationship between law enforcement and the people we protect is eroded. The law abiding citizens of California should be outraged at this blatant disregard for the laws that our agents are sworn to protect.”**

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