

FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

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August 2nd, 2017

Senator John Cornyn
517 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Cornyn:

The Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association (FLEOA) has stated that there is no single solution to resolving America's border security dilemma. Resolution will require a wide spectrum of initiatives, including physical structures, administrative processing, human capital investments, and technology. FLEOA is the nation's largest non-profit, non-partisan professional organization representing more than 26,000 federal officers and agents. FLEOA endorses the *Building America's Trust Act* because of its multi-layered approach to border security, as well as to enhancing both law enforcement and judicial processing within our sovereign nation.

Smart border security requires tactical infrastructure and operational technology in order to achieve operational control of our borders. Access to our country through our ports of entry requires operational and technological upgrades to deny illegal entry, while accelerating legal trade and travel. This bill will increase the number of sorely understaffed Border Patrol officers, HSI agents, CBP officers, ICE officers, Immigration Judges and Assistant U.S. Attorneys. In addition, we applaud the proposal to co-locate DHS agents and officers with local law enforcement and to enhance data and communication protocols. Our members have been sickened by the historic catch-and-release of criminal aliens and we endorse increased apprehension, immediate prosecution, judicious detention, and speedy removal of illegal aliens. We also endorse the bill's elimination of the constraints on cooperation by local law enforcement in sanctuary cities and the steps the legislation takes to address issues involving unaccompanied minors, visa overstays, and the exclusion of terrorists and national security threats.

FLEOA applauds new criminal penalties for transnational criminal organizations, the arrest and detention of felons who repeatedly enter our country illegally, and the increased deployment of the Biometric Entry and Exit system. In closing, this legislation takes a wise and measured approach to border security, incorporating the deployment of the National Guard, the allocation of additional federal personnel, the implementation of technology, and most importantly, the funding necessary to accomplish these vital initiatives.

Sincerely,

Nathan R. Catura

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FLEOA President