



HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

Chairman Jim Jordan

ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA: THE DANGEROUS CONSEQUENCES OF SANCTUARY POLICIES

Interim Staff Report

Committee on the Judiciary
Chairman Jim Jordan

Subcommittee on Immigration Integrity, Security, and Enforcement
Chairman Tom McClintock

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Democrats' open-borders policies at the federal level and sanctuary policies at the state and local level allow millions of illegal aliens to pour into the country and ensure that criminal aliens, after encountered by local law enforcement, are released back into American communities. For four years, the Biden-Harris Administration's open borders allowed over eight million illegal aliens to enter the United States, including six million aliens who were released into the country and another two million "gotaways" who avoided apprehension entirely.¹ Once in the country, sanctuary policies in Democrat-run jurisdictions like Arlington County, Virginia, allow criminal aliens to stay, hurting public safety and endangering law-abiding Americans.

Many Democrat-run state and local jurisdictions prohibit law enforcement from cooperating with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to ensure that criminal aliens are transferred to ICE custody and removed from the United States. Led by far-left officials and guided by radical immigration policies, these sanctuary jurisdictions provide a safe haven for criminal aliens. Democrat prosecutors in certain sanctuary jurisdictions provide foreign national criminals preferential prosecutorial treatment—leniency that similarly situated Americans do not receive—so that the criminal aliens may avoid immigration consequences for their criminality and can remain in the United States indefinitely.

The American people elected President Donald Trump and Congressional Republicans with a mandate to secure the border, restore immigration enforcement, and reverse Democrats' radical immigration agenda. President Trump's border enforcement agenda has worked, and illegal alien apprehensions at the southwest border are at historic lows.² Congressional Democrats, however, oppose the President's commonsense solutions to improve border security and immigration enforcement. To thwart this law-and-order approach and to protect criminal and illegal aliens, Democrats at the federal level shut down the federal government for months in 2025 and 2026. Their obstruction ensured that many of the hardworking men and women of the Department of Homeland Security were unpaid and unable to fully carry out their mission to protect the homeland.

¹ Info. provided to the H. Comm. on the Judiciary by U.S. Dep't of Homeland Sec., Table 1: Detention Histories of CBP Encounters, January 20, 2021 – March 31, 2024 (Aug. 16, 2024); U.S. Customs and Border Prot., *Custody and Transfer Statistics*, U.S. DEP'T OF HOMELAND SEC. (last accessed July 8, 2025); Camilo Montoya-Galvez, *Biden-Harris Administration has admitted more than 1 million migrants into U.S. under parole policy Congress is considering restricting*, CBS NEWS (Jan. 22, 2024); *Latest UC Data, Total Monthly Discharges to Individual Sponsors Only*, U.S. DEP'T OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVS. (last accessed Aug. 7, 2026); Off. of Refugee Resettlement, *Unaccompanied Children Released to Sponsors by State*, U.S. DEP'T OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVS. (last accessed Aug. 7, 2026); U.S. Customs and Border Prot., *CBP Releases December 2024 Monthly Update*, U.S. DEP'T OF HOMELAND SEC. (Jan. 14, 2025); Immigr. and Customs Enf't, *Daily SWB Placemat*, U.S. DEP'T OF HOMELAND SEC. (May 2024-Jan. 2025) (on file with Comm.); Off. of Homeland Sec. Statistics, *Immigr. Enf't and Legal Processes Monthly Tables – Apr. 2024*, U.S. DEP'T OF HOMELAND SEC. (last accessed Aug. 7, 2026); Casey Harper, *Border crisis creates national security threat for U.S., observers say*, WASH. EXAMINER (Aug. 7, 2023); Bill Melugin (@BillMelugin_), X (June 20, 2024, 10:22 AM).

² See, e.g., Press Release, Trump Administration Delivers 14 Straight Months of Zero Releases at the Border (July 16, 2026), <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2026/07/16/trump-administration-delivers-14-straight-months-zero-releases-border>.

Meanwhile, at the state and local level, Democrats' sanctuary policies continued to wreak havoc on American communities. Because sanctuary jurisdictions routinely refuse to cooperate with ICE, officials in these sanctuary jurisdictions release criminal aliens onto the streets instead of transferring them to ICE for removal from the country. According to ICE information, between October 2022 and early 2026, sanctuary jurisdictions declined to honor at least 41,085 detainers from ICE.³ A detainer is the formal request that a state or local law enforcement agency notify ICE before releasing a criminal alien or that the agency maintain custody of a criminal alien for a short period until ICE is able to arrest them in a secure setting.⁴ By refusing to honor ICE detainers, state and local jurisdictions guarantee that dangerous foreign national criminals—even illegal aliens who have been convicted of serious, violent crimes—are released into American communities and free to reoffend.

Sanctuary jurisdictions pose a significant threat to public safety and the enforcement of federal immigration law. The Committee on the Judiciary, with its Subcommittee on Immigration Integrity, Security, and Enforcement, has been conducting oversight of these radical sanctuary policies. Since January 2026, the Committee and Subcommittee have requested information relating to jurisdictions that restrict or prohibit cooperation with federal immigration officials, including their policies' devastating effects on public safety. To date, the Committee and Subcommittee have requested relevant material from 40 officials in 13 sanctuary jurisdictions across the country.

This interim staff report focuses on Arlington County, Virginia, which has obstructed federal law enforcement with its sanctuary policies for years. Nonpublic documents, data, and testimony obtained by the Committee and Subcommittee reveal the startling extent to which Arlington County actively obstructs the enforcement of federal immigration law and shields foreign national criminals from accountability. The Committee and Subcommittee's oversight reveals:

- **Arlington County treats illegal aliens differently than similarly situated American citizens.** Parisa Dehghani-Tafti, the Commonwealth's Attorney for Arlington County and the City of Falls Church, testified in a deposition that her office considers immigration status when determining the outcome of a criminal case. She admitted that her office's written policies do not explicitly forbid the consideration of immigration status for *any* crime.⁵ In other words, prosecutors in her office are not explicitly prohibited from considering a criminal defendant's immigration status, regardless of the severity of the crime the foreign national committed. Dehghani-Tafti also testified that there are cases in which considering a criminal alien defendant's immigration status is appropriate, which could at least include assault, domestic violence cases, certain cases with child victims, possession of a fake identification document, and certain cases involving disarming a

³ Info. provided to the H. Comm. on the Judiciary by U.S. Immigr. and Customs Enf't (Feb. 6, 2026) (on file with Comm.). The number of declined detainers is likely higher, given that ICE may not be aware that a detainer was declined until the agency encounters an alien who had previously been released.

⁴ See Immigr. Detainers, U.S. Immigr. and Customs Enf't, <https://www.ice.gov/immigration-detainers> (last accessed Aug. 7, 2026).

⁵ See Deposition of Parisa Dehghani-Tafti, Commonwealth's Att'y for Arlington Cnty. and the City of Falls Church, H. Comm. on the Judiciary, at 106-07, 115 (July 16, 2026).

police officer.⁶ When asked specifically whether her office prohibits the consideration of immigration status or collateral immigration consequences in cases involving child victims, Dehghani-Tafti answered, “It depends on what the charge is.”⁷ Immigration-specific considerations, and the potential for a different prosecutorial outcome based on those immigration considerations, are not available to American citizens charged with similar crimes.

- **Arlington County makes prosecutorial decisions for the purpose of avoiding immigration consequences for some criminal defendants.** Dehghani-Tafti testified that her office’s policy is to fashion a resolution, or even shift to a “lateral” charge, for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients charged with Driving While Intoxicated (DWI), so that a DACA recipient does not lose his or her DACA status based on a DWI conviction.⁸ This policy ensures that certain foreign nationals are never convicted of DWI in Arlington County, solely due to their status as non-U.S. citizens.
- **Arlington County’s chief prosecutor opposes commonsense immigration enforcement.** In her deposition with the Committee and Subcommittee, Dehghani-Tafti stood by her previous characterization of the bipartisan Laken Riley Act—named for a young woman killed by an illegal alien—as a “heinous bill”⁹ and asserted that Laken’s murder did not have “anything to do with immigration.”¹⁰ Contrary to Dehghani-Tafti’s assertion, Laken was murdered by an illegal alien from Venezuela who had previously been arrested and released in two sanctuary jurisdictions.¹¹
- **Arlington County prohibits cooperation with ICE even in cases involving felons and terrorists.** Arlington County’s latest “Trust Policy” prohibits the Arlington County Police Department (ACPD) “from initiating contact with federal immigration authorities” even when ACPD identifies an illegal alien as a violent felon, gang member, human trafficker, or terrorist.¹² In other words, Arlington County’s new policy protects the worst of the worst of criminal aliens—murderers, terrorists, and sex traffickers—from deportation.
- **Arlington County has ignored almost every ICE detainer lodged against a criminal alien during the Trump Administration.** As Dehghani-Tafti ensures that foreign

⁶ *Id.* at 106-07, 112-13.

⁷ *Id.* at 106.

⁸ *Id.* at 89.

⁹ Parisa Dehghani-Tafti, Facebook (July 12, 2025), <https://www.facebook.com/parisa.dehghanitafti/posts/1495879728064494>.

¹⁰ Deposition of Parisa Dehghani-Tafti, Commonwealth’s Att’y for Arlington Cnty. and the City of Falls Church, H. Comm. on the Judiciary, at 72 (July 16, 2026).

¹¹ See H. Comm. on the Judiciary, Interim Staff Rep. on The Consequences of the Biden-Harris Admin.’s Open-Borders Policies: The Case of the Illegal Alien Who Killed Laken Riley (Aug. 16, 2024), <https://judiciary.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/republicans-judiciary.house.gov/files/evo-media-document/08-16-2024-The-Case-of-the-Illegal-Alien-Who-Murdered-Laken-Riley.pdf>.

¹² See Nick Minock, *County in Virginia won’t work with ICE on gang members and accused terrorists*, ABC 7 NEWS (May 14, 2025, 11:10 AM), <https://wjla.com/news/local/virginia-arlington-county-board-ice-united-states-us-immigration-customs-enforcement-police-department-terrorists-gang-members-human-traffickers-ms-13-illegal-immigrant-migrants>

national criminals are not prosecuted or are underprosecuted, Arlington County law enforcement officers are forced to release those criminals back into Virginia instead of to ICE. From January 2025 through May 2026, the Arlington County Sheriff's Office (ACSO) received 310 ICE detainees and honored only two, both of which were accompanied by a judicial warrant.¹³ Forty-two of the individuals for whom the detainees were placed already had criminal convictions at the time.¹⁴

- **Because of Arlington County's radical sanctuary policies, repeat and dangerous criminals have been released onto the streets.** The criminal aliens that the ACSO released back into the community instead of to immigration authorities from January 2025 through May 2026 include:
 - Ricardo Castro Ramirez, charged with assault on police, two counts of felony robbery by force, public intoxication, and destruction of property;¹⁵
 - Soukouly Mohammad Hashi, arrested by the Arlington County Police Department three times, by the Fairfax County Police Department 19 times,¹⁶ and with pending charges in Maryland;¹⁷ and
 - Johslin Ariel Lopez-Rodas, charged with felony possession of a firearm, felony possession of a controlled substance, felony possession of a firearm while intoxicated, and driving while intoxicated.¹⁸
- **Arlington County policies require law enforcement to release violent criminals.** Arlington County's Trust Policy prohibits local law enforcement from cooperating with ICE, including for the following aliens who are or have been in ACSO custody:
 - A criminal alien gang member with a 57-page criminal history that includes multiple felony charges, including for robbery and malicious wounding;¹⁹
 - A criminal alien charged with felony hit-and-run that led to injury or death;²⁰

¹³ Info. from U.S. Immigr. and Customs Enf't (July 27, 2026) (on file with Comm.); Letter from Counsel for Arlington Cnty. Sheriff to Rep. Jim Jordan, Chairman, H. Comm. on the Judiciary (June 2, 2026) (on file with Comm.); Email from Counsel for Arlington Cnty. Sheriff to H. Comm. on the Judiciary Staff (June 5, 2026) (on file with Comm.). Some of the individuals for whom ICE lodged a detainer may still be in the custody of Arlington County or another state or local entity and may not have been released yet.

¹⁴ Info. from U.S. Immigr. and Customs Enf't (July 27, 2026) (on file with Comm.).

¹⁵ Info. from U.S. Immigr. and Customs Enf't (July 24, 2026) (on file with Comm.); Crime Rep.: Sept. 25, 2025, ARLINGTON, VA. (Sept. 25, 2025), <https://www.arlingtonva.us/About-Arlington/Newsroom/Articles/2025/Crime-Report-September-25-2025>; Michael O'Connell, *Fredericksburg Man Cited On Felony Charges Following Arlington Arrest*, PATCH (Sept. 25, 2025, 12:00 PM), <https://patch.com/virginia/fredericksburg/fredericksburg-man-cited-felony-charges-following-arlington-arrest>.

¹⁶ Info. from U.S. Immigr. and Customs Enf't (July 24, 2026) (on file with Comm.).

¹⁷ See Maryland Judiciary Case Search, State of Maryland vs. Soukouly Mohammad Hashi, Case No. D-05-CR-26-021246.

¹⁸ Info. from U.S. Immigr. and Customs Enf't (July 24, 2026) (on file with Comm.).

¹⁹ Info. from U.S. Immigr. and Customs Enf't (July 27, 2026) (on file with Comm.).

²⁰ *Id.*

- A criminal alien charged with abduction and assault on a family member.²¹

Arlington County's sanctuary policies threaten public safety and undermine the safe and effective enforcement of federal immigration law. In just one case from earlier in 2026, an illegal alien from Guatemala assaulted a woman²² after Dehghani-Tafti failed to fully prosecute him for numerous crimes.²³

This interim report provides evidence of the ways in which just one local jurisdiction has implemented policies that allow dangerous foreign nationals to reoffend and avoid deportation. But Arlington County and Parisa Dehghani-Tafti are not outliers. They are indicative of a modern, radical, socialist Democrat Party that seeks to erase national borders and place illegal alien criminals ahead of law-abiding American citizens. The policies supported by these Democrats, including sanctuary policies, will have negative and lasting consequences for Americans. The Committee and Subcommittee will continue to conduct oversight of these sanctuary policies to inform potential legislative reforms to better protect American communities.

²¹ *Id.*

²² See Thomas Mates, *Man accused of attempted rape after woman attacked in Arlington*, ABC 7 NEWS (Apr. 13, 2026, 5:37 PM), <https://wjla.com/news/local/man-accused-of-attempted-rape-after-woman-attacked-in-arlington>; Press Release, ICE pleads with Gov. Abigail Spanberger's sanctuary state of Virginia not to release accused sexual predator, U.S. Immigr. & Customs Enf't (Apr. 20, 2026), <https://www.ice.gov/news/releases/ice-pleads-gov-abigail-spanbergers-sanctuary-state-virginia-not-release-accused>.

²³ See, e.g., Arlington County Circuit Court, Criminal Division, Case No. CR25000818-00; Arlington General District Court, General District Court Online Case Information System, Case No. GC24005364-00.

SANCTUARY JURISDICTIONS

A “sanctuary city” or “sanctuary jurisdiction” is a city or jurisdiction that refuses to cooperate, or limits cooperation, with federal authorities in the enforcement of federal immigration law.²⁴ Under the principle that “illegal aliens do not have the right to remain in the U.S. undetected and unapprehended,”²⁵ Congress has explicitly prohibited any restriction on communication between state or local entities and federal immigration authorities relating to an individual’s immigration status.²⁶

Despite the statute’s clear prohibition on cities, counties, and states from restricting communication with federal immigration authorities, there are, according to an estimate from the Center for Immigration Studies, upward of 200 such sanctuary jurisdictions in the United States. These jurisdictions:

[H]ave laws, ordinances, regulations, resolutions, policies, or other practices that obstruct immigration enforcement and shield criminals from [U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)]—either by refusing to or prohibiting agencies from complying with ICE detainers, imposing unreasonable conditions on detainer acceptance, denying ICE access to interview incarcerated aliens, or otherwise impeding communication or information exchanges between their personnel and federal immigration officers.²⁷

Sanctuary jurisdictions range from entire states—such as Colorado, California, New York, and Illinois—to major cities—such as Chicago; New Orleans; New York, Newark, New Jersey; Washington, D.C.; Baltimore; and Seattle—to entire counties like Arlington County, Virginia.²⁸

Sanctuary jurisdictions’ refusal to cooperate with ICE, including by not honoring ICE detainers, means that dangerous aliens are released back onto American streets. To ensure that criminal aliens are safely apprehended and deported, ICE issues detainers for aliens who have been arrested and who ICE has “probable cause to believe . . . [are] removable” from the United States.²⁹ With a detainer, ICE “sends a formal request to a law enforcement agency or correctional facility that has custody of a potentially dangerous alien” and asks the law enforcement agency to notify ICE “as early as possible before [the agency] release[s] a removable alien” and to “[h]old the alien for up to 48 hours beyond the time they would

²⁴ See WILLIAM A. KANDEL, CONG. RSCH. SERV., IFI14328, “SANCTUARY” JURISDICTIONS: POLICY OVERVIEW (2020); see also SARAH PECK, CONG. RSCH. SERV., R44795, “SANCTUARY” JURISDICTIONS: FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL POLICIES AND RELATED LITIGATION 3-4 (2019).

²⁵ H. Rep. No. 104-469, part 1, at 277 (1996).

²⁶ See 8 U.S.C. § 1373(a).

²⁷ Jessica M. Vaughan, *Map: Sanctuary Cities, Counties, and States*, CENTER FOR IMMIGR. STUDIES (June 29, 2026), <https://cis.org/Map-Sanctuary-Cities-Counties-and-States> (last accessed Aug. 7, 2026). The list of sanctuary jurisdictions compiled by the Center for Immigration Studies is broader than the Justice Department’s list.

²⁸ *Id.*

²⁹ *Immigr. Detainers*, U.S. Immigr. and Customs Enf’t, <https://www.ice.gov/immigration-detainers> (last accessed Aug. 28, 2026).

ordinarily release them so DHS has time to assume custody in accordance with federal immigration law.”³⁰ Notably, these aliens are in the custody of a state or local law enforcement agency for a criminal offense—not because they entered the country illegally or otherwise lack lawful status.

Despite the effectiveness of detainers, in the first 12 months of President Trump’s second term, state and local law enforcement agencies declined at least 17,864 ICE detainers, including for aliens charged with crimes ranging from sexual assault to murder, according to ICE data.³¹ In its 2019 report, ICE again warned that sanctuary jurisdictions were “[o]ne of the biggest impediments to [ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations’] public safety efforts.”³² In addition to harming communities, refusing to honor ICE detainers also endangers law enforcement officers as they must resort to taking custody of the alien in an uncontrolled environment.³³

The Biden-Harris Administration worked to weaken the first Trump Administration’s efforts to hold sanctuary jurisdictions accountable for undermining immigration enforcement.³⁴ In addition to dropping federal litigation relating to sanctuary jurisdictions’ policies,³⁵ the Biden-Harris Administration’s Justice Department, beginning in April 2021, no longer required jurisdictions to cooperate with ICE as a condition of receiving federal grant funding.³⁶ The number of ICE detainers fell precipitously as a result, from a monthly average of 13,000 to 14,000 during the first Trump Administration to a mere 2,200 detainers in March 2021—just two months after President Biden took office.³⁷ Although the Biden-Harris Administration gradually increased its use of immigration detainers in response to public pressure against its radical immigration policies, it still issued 31 percent fewer detainers than the first Trump Administration.³⁸

³⁰ *Id.*

³¹ Info. provided to the H. Comm. on the Judiciary by U.S. Immigr. and Customs Enf’t, (Feb. 6, 2026) (on file with Comm.). The number of declined detainers is likely higher, given that ICE may not be aware that a detainer was declined until the agency encounters an alien who had previously been released.

³² See U.S. Immigr. and Customs Enf’t, Fiscal Year 2019 Enf’t and Removal Operations Rep., at 17 (2020), <https://www.ice.gov/sites/default/files/documents/Document/2019/eroReportFY2019.pdf>; see also U.S. Immigr. and Customs Enf’t, Fiscal Year 2020 Enf’t and Removal Operations Rep., at 17-18 (2021), <https://www.ice.gov/doclib/news/library/reports/annual-report/eroReportFY2020.pdf> (emphasizing the impact of non-cooperative jurisdictions).

³³ See U.S. Immigr. and Customs Enf’t, Q&A: U.S. Immigr. and Customs Enf’t Declined Detainer Outcome Rep. (DDOR) (Mar. 20, 2017), <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2017/03/20/qa-us-immigration-and-customers-enforcement-declined-detainer-outcome-report>.

³⁴ See Sarah N. Lynch, *U.S. Justice Department ends Trump-era limits on grants to 'sanctuary cities'*, REUTERS (Apr. 28, 2021, 8:31 AM), <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/exclusive-us-justice-department-ends-trump-era-limits-grants-sanctuary-cities-2021-04-28/>.

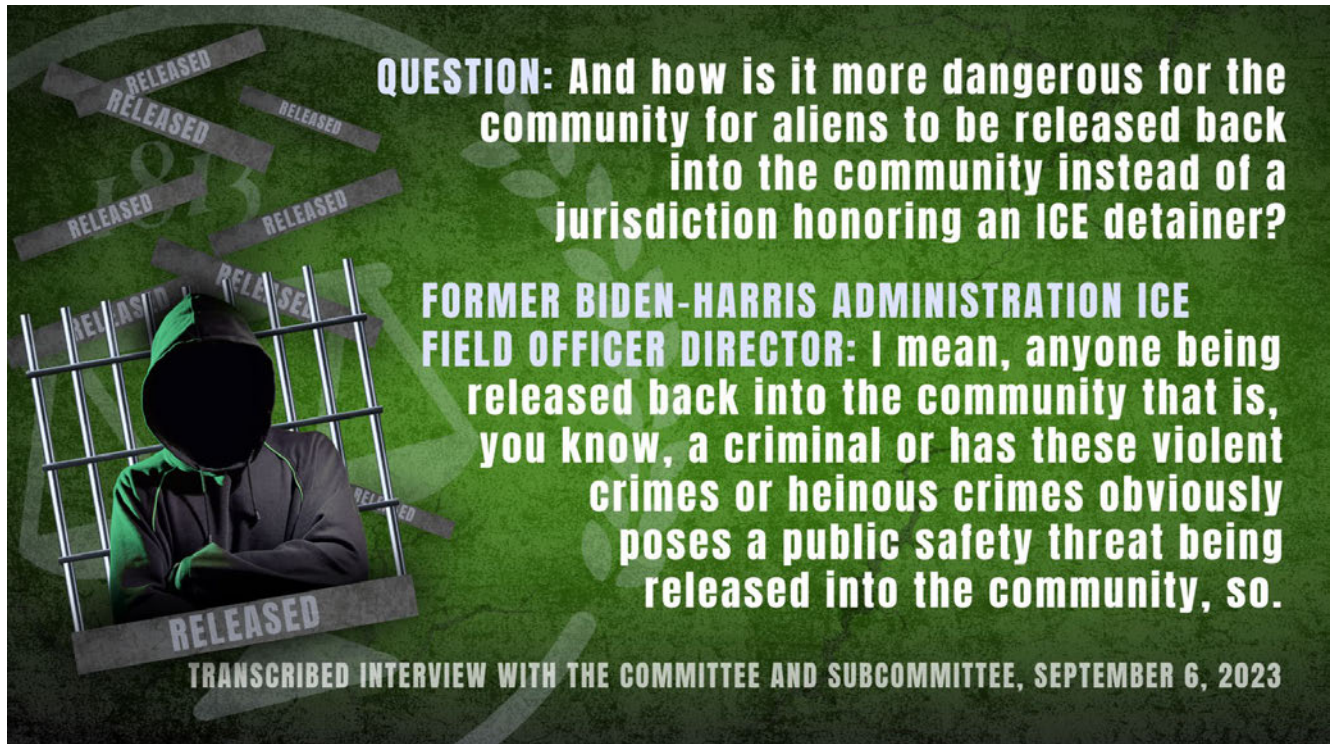
³⁵ Amy Howe, *Court dismisses “sanctuary cities” petitions*, SCOTUS BLOG (Mar. 5, 2021, 10:58 AM), <https://www.scotusblog.com/2021/03/court-dismisses-sanctuary-cities-petitions/>; see City Att’y of San Francisco, *Final victory for San Francisco in sanctuary city case against Trump administration* (Mar. 4, 2021), <https://www.sfcityattorney.org/2021/03/04/final-victory-for-san-francisco-in-sanctuary-city-case-against-trump-administration/>.

³⁶ See Lynch, *supra* note 34.

³⁷ *New Data on ICE Immigration Detainers Show Sharp Drop Since Start of Biden Administration*, TRAC IMMIGR. (June 20, 2023), <https://trac.syr.edu/reports/719/>.

³⁸ See U.S. Immigr. and Customs Enf’t, Fiscal Year 2024 ICE Enf’t and Removal Operations Rep., at 21 (Dec. 19, 2024), <https://www.ice.gov/doclib/eoy/iceAnnualReportFY2024.pdf>; U.S. Immigr. and Customs Enf’t, Fiscal Year

Even Biden-Harris Administration ICE officials criticized sanctuary policies for endangering the public and law enforcement alike. In a transcribed interview with the Committee in 2023, one former high-ranking ICE official testified that sanctuary jurisdictions' refusal to honor ICE detainers endangers ICE officers and undermines ICE's mission.³⁹ Another Biden-Harris Administration ICE official told the Committee how detainer noncompliance for violent criminals "poses a public safety threat being released into the community."⁴⁰ One former ICE official even attributed sanctuary policies to potentially undermining national security.⁴¹



Since the start of President Trump's second term, the federal government has acted swiftly against sanctuary policies. In an executive order signed on January 20, 2025, President Trump directed the Attorney General and DHS Secretary to "evaluate and undertake any lawful actions to ensure that so-called 'sanctuary' jurisdictions, which seek to interfere with the lawful exercise of Federal law enforcement operations, do not receive access to Federal funds."⁴² President Trump also instructed the Attorney General and DHS Secretary to "undertake any other lawful actions, criminal or civil, that they deem warranted based on any such jurisdiction's

2018 ICE Enf't and Removal Operations Rep., at 9, <https://www.ice.gov/doclib/about/offices/ero/pdf/eroFY2018Report.pdf>.

³⁹ Transcribed Interview of Former ICE Official 1, U.S. Immigr. & Customs Enf't, at 79-80 (Sept. 22, 2023) (on file with Comm.).

⁴⁰ Transcribed Interview of Former ICE Official 2, U.S. Immigr. & Customs Enf't, at 36 (Sept. 6, 2023) (on file with Comm.).

⁴¹ Transcribed Interview of Former ICE Official 3, U.S. Immigr. & Customs Enf't, at 23 (June 27, 2023) (on file with Comm.).

⁴² Exec. Order No. 14159, Protecting the American People Against Invasion, 90 Fed. Reg. 8443 (Jan. 20, 2025), <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/protecting-the-american-people-against-invasion/>.

practices that interfere with the enforcement of Federal law.”⁴³ On February 19, 2025, President Trump signed an additional executive order to “ensure[] that Federal funds to states and localities will not be used to support ‘sanctuary’ policies or assist illegal immigration.”⁴⁴

On April 28, 2025, President Trump signed another executive order that directed the Attorney General to “publish a list of States and local jurisdictions that obstruct the enforcement of Federal immigration laws,” “notify each sanctuary jurisdiction regarding its defiance of Federal immigration law enforcement and any potential violations of Federal criminal law,” and “pursue all necessary legal remedies and enforcement measures to end these violations and bring such jurisdictions into compliance” with federal law.⁴⁵ The Justice Department produced its initial list of sanctuary jurisdictions in August 2025.⁴⁶ The most recent list from October 2025 identified 11 states, the District of Columbia, three counties, and 18 cities—meaning that, conservatively, about one-third of the U.S. population lives under dangerous sanctuary policies.⁴⁷ The number of Americans living under sanctuary policies may actually be much higher, however, as the Center for Immigration Studies estimates that the number of sanctuary jurisdictions is closer to 200.⁴⁸

SANCTUARY POLICIES IN ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

Arlington County’s Trust Policy

Arlington County, Virginia, is one of the most prominent examples of a local jurisdiction with radical sanctuary policies. For years, the Arlington County Board, through its Trust Policy, has restricted local law enforcement’s cooperation with federal immigration officials.⁴⁹ A former version of the Trust Policy prohibited Arlington law enforcement from disclosing an individual’s immigration status except in limited situations, forbade local law enforcement from enforcing immigration warrants and honoring ICE detainers, and restricted contact between the Arlington County Police Department (ACPD) and ICE except in rare cases, such as those involving violent felons and illegal aliens arrested for or reasonably suspected of terrorism or human trafficking.⁵⁰

⁴³ *Id.*

⁴⁴ Fact Sheet, President Donald J. Trump Ends Taxpayer Subsidization of Open Borders, WHITE HOUSE (Feb. 19, 2025), <https://www.whitehouse.gov/fact-sheets/2025/02/fact-sheet-president-donald-j-trump-ends-taxpayer-subsidization-of-open-borders/>.

⁴⁵ Exec. Order No. 14287, Protecting American Communities from Criminal Aliens, 90 Fed. Reg. 18761 (Apr. 28, 2025), <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/05/02/2025-07789/protecting-american-communities-from-criminal-aliens?>.

⁴⁶ Press Release, Justice Department Publishes List of Sanctuary Jurisdictions, U.S. DEP’T OF JUSTICE (Aug. 5, 2025), <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-publishes-list-sanctuary-jurisdictions>.

⁴⁷ U.S. Sanctuary Jurisdiction List Following Executive Order 14287: Protecting American Communities From Criminal Aliens, U.S. Dep’t of Justice, <https://www.justice.gov/ag/us-sanctuary-jurisdiction-list-following-executive-order-14287-protecting-american-communities> (last accessed Jan. 20, 2026).

⁴⁸ See Vaughan, *supra* note 27.

⁴⁹ See Arlington’s Commitment to Strengthening Trust with Our Immigrant Communities (July 19, 2022), https://www.arlingtonva.us/files/sharedassets/public/v/1/county-board/documents/trust-docs/trust-policy-final-draft-7-18-final-final_clean.pdf

⁵⁰ See *id.*; Decision Matrix – Contacting Federal Immigr. Authorities, Arlington Cnty. Police Dep’t (Dec. 10, 2024) (on file with Comm.).

The Trust Policy restrictions have evolved into full prohibitions on communication and cooperation with ICE.⁵¹ In May 2025, following President Trump’s inauguration, the Arlington County Board enacted new prohibitions on local law enforcement’s cooperation with ICE.⁵² The new “Trust Policy” prohibits ACPD “from initiating contact with federal immigration authorities” even when ACPD identifies an illegal alien as a violent felon, gang member, human trafficker, or terrorist.⁵³ In other words, Arlington County’s new policy protects the worst of the worst of criminal aliens—murderers, terrorists, and sex traffickers—from deportation.

The Arlington County Board’s sanctuary policies ensure that ACPD rarely communicates with ICE, even in the most serious of circumstances. According to Arlington County’s own data, ACPD only “contacted federal immigration authorities 17 times” in 2025⁵⁴ compared to 18 times in 2024,⁵⁵ seven times in 2023,⁵⁶ and six times in 2022.⁵⁷ For context, in 2024, 26,000 foreign nationals lived in Arlington County, making up roughly 11 percent of the county population.⁵⁸ With the latest prohibitions put in place in May 2025, Arlington County’s already limited communications with ICE will no doubt plummet for 2026.

⁵¹ See, e.g., Memo from ACPD Captain to Police All Supervisors, Arlington Cnty. Trust Policy Changes (Dec. 10, 2024) (on file with Comm.).

⁵² See Nick Minock, *County in Virginia won't work with ICE on gang members and accused terrorists*, ABC 7 NEWS (May 14, 2025, 11:10 AM), <https://wjla.com/news/local/virginia-arlington-county-board-ice-united-states-us-immigration-customs-enforcement-police-department-terrorists-gang-members-human-traffickers-ms-13-illegal-immigrant-migrants>; *Compare* Arlington’s Commitment to Strengthening Trust with Our Immigrant Communities, sec. II.B.7 (July 19, 2022), https://www.arlingtonva.us/files/sharedassets/public/v/1/county-board/documents/trust-docs/trust-policy-final-draft-7-18-final-final_clean.pdf (including certain exceptions for aliens arrested for violent felonies, terrorism, human trafficking, and criminal street gang offenses; for aliens who are members of a criminal street gang; and for aliens arrested for non-violent felonies but for whom “notification to federal immigration authorities is prudent to maintain community safety”), *with* Arlington’s Commitment to Strengthening Trust with Our Immigrant Communities, sec. II.B.7 (Nov. 16, 2024), <https://www.arlingtonva.us/files/sharedassets/public/v/1/trust-policy-november-2024-update-adopted.pdf> (narrowing exceptions to ICE cooperation), *and* Arlington’s Commitment to Strengthening Trust with Our Immigrant Communities (May 13, 2025), <https://www.arlingtonva.us/files/sharedassets/public/v/1/county-board/documents/trust-policy-updated-may-13-2025.pdf> (eliminating exceptions to ICE cooperation).

⁵³ *Id.*; see Arlington Cnty. Police Dep’t Directive Manual, 523.04 Immigr. Status and Access to Police Servs. (July 22, 2025) (on file with Comm.).

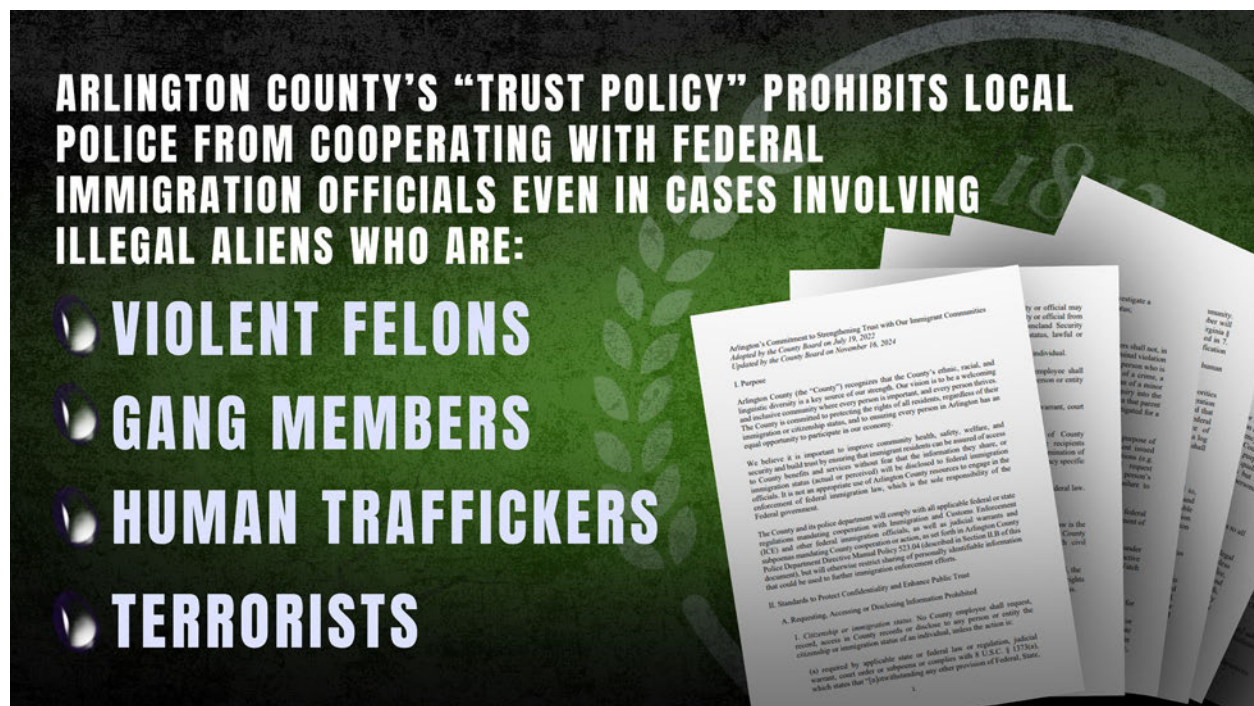
⁵⁴ Annual Rep. 2025, Arlington Cnty. Police Dep’t, at 51 (on file with Comm.).

⁵⁵ Annual Rep. 2024, Arlington Cnty. Police Dep’t, at 53 (on file with Comm.).

⁵⁶ Annual Rep. 2023, Arlington Cnty. Police Dep’t, at 50 (on file with Comm.).

⁵⁷ Annual Rep. 2022, Arlington Cnty. Police Dep’t, at 49 (on file with Comm.).

⁵⁸ See Immigrants in Arlington County, American Immigr. Council (Aug. 2026), <https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/08/Arlington-County-G4G-Report.pdf>.



The Trust Policy also guarantees that the Arlington County Sheriff's Office (ACSO) releases criminal aliens onto northern Virginia streets instead of to federal immigration officials. With the latest Trust Policy updates, ACSO is prohibited from honoring ICE detainers that are not accompanied by a judicial warrant,⁵⁹ which is impossible to receive in cases without a federal crime.⁶⁰ From January 2025 through May 2026, ACSO received 310 ICE detainers and honored only two of them, both of which were accompanied by a judicial warrant.⁶¹ In other words, Arlington County honored only 0.65 percent of all formal requests from ICE pertaining to the custody of criminal aliens. Forty-two of the individuals for whom ICE placed detainers with Arlington law enforcement already had criminal convictions at the time.⁶²

Arlington County's refusal to cooperate with federal immigration officials has real-world consequences. The criminal aliens that ACSO released back into the community instead of to immigration authorities from January 2025 through May 2026 include:

⁵⁹ Letter from Counsel for Arlington Cnty. Sheriff to Rep. Jim Jordan, Chairman, H. Comm. on the Judiciary (June 2, 2026) (on file with Comm.).

⁶⁰ See, e.g., *Fairfax Cnty., Va.: The Dangerous Consequences of Sanctuary Policies: Hearing Before the Subcomm. on Immigr. Integrity, Security, and Enf't of the H. Comm. on the Judiciary*, 119th Cong. (May 14, 2026) (testimony of former Va. Att'y Gen. Jason Miyares).

⁶¹ Info. from U.S. Immigr. and Customs Enf't (July 27, 2026) (on file with Comm.); see Letter from Counsel for Arlington Cnty. Sheriff to Rep. Jim Jordan, Chairman, H. Comm. on the Judiciary (June 2, 2026) (on file with Comm.); Email from Counsel for Arlington Cnty. Sheriff to H. Comm. on the Judiciary Staff (June 5, 2026) (on file with Comm.).

⁶² Info. from U.S. Immigr. and Customs Enf't (July 24, 2026) (on file with Comm.).

- Ricardo Castro Ramirez, charged with assault on police, two counts of felony robbery by force, public intoxication, and destruction of property;⁶³
- Soukouly Mohammad Hashi, arrested three times by the Arlington County Police Department, 19 times by the Fairfax County Police Department,⁶⁴ and with pending charges in Maryland;⁶⁵ and
- Johslin Ariel Lopez-Rodas, charged with felony possession of a firearm, felony possession of a controlled substance, felony possession of a firearm while intoxicated, and driving while intoxicated.⁶⁶



Arlington County's Trust Policy prohibits local law enforcement from cooperating with ICE, including for dangerous and repeat criminal aliens. According to information from ICE, the following aliens are or have been in ACSO custody: a criminal alien gang member with a 57-page criminal history that includes multiple felony charges, including for robbery and malicious

⁶³ *Id.*; Crime Rep.: Sept. 25, 2025, ARLINGTON, VA. (Sept. 25, 2025), <https://www.arlingtonva.us/About-Arlington/Newsroom/Articles/2025/Crime-Report-September-25-2025>; Michael O'Connell, *Fredericksburg Man Cited On Felony Charges Following Arlington Arrest*, PATCH (Sept. 25, 2025, 12:00 PM), <https://patch.com/virginia/fredericksburg/fredericksburg-man-cited-felony-charges-following-arlington-arrest>.

⁶⁴ Info. from U.S. Immigr. and Customs Enf't (July 24, 2026) (on file with Comm.).

⁶⁵ Maryland Judiciary Case Search, State of Maryland vs. Soukouly Mohammad Hashi, Case No. D-05-CR-26-021246.

⁶⁶ Info. from U.S. Immigr. and Customs Enf't (July 24, 2026) (on file with Comm.).

wounding;⁶⁷ a criminal alien charged with felony hit-and-run that led to injury or death;⁶⁸ and a criminal alien charged with abduction and assault on a family member.⁶⁹ Because of Arlington County’s sanctuary policies, these aliens are released to local streets and free to reoffend.

Arlington County’s Preferential Prosecution of Criminal Aliens

Under the direction of Commonwealth’s Attorney for Arlington County and the City of Falls Church Parisa Dehghani-Tafti, Arlington County prosecutors give preferential treatment to aliens based solely on their immigration status—all so that criminal aliens can avoid deportation and remain in the United States indefinitely. These policies apply even in the most heinous of crimes, including certain cases involving child victims, domestic violence, disarming a police officer, and assault.

In public documents, Dehghani-Tafti boasted about how her office has “protected people’s [Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)] status” and “fashioned resolutions that avoid deportation.”⁷⁰ DACA is a President Obama-era program that defers the removal of certain illegal aliens who entered the U.S. as minors.⁷¹ In one case involving a criminal alien, Dehghani-Tafti claimed her office “thought long and hard” about how to prevent a foreign national’s deportation.⁷² She previously committed to “take immigration status into consideration when making charging decisions on minor infractions” so aliens can avoid “collateral consequences,”⁷³ and her office has trained its employees “on the effects of criminal prosecution on immigration status.”⁷⁴ In a June 2023 interview, Dehghani-Tafti even claimed that witnessing prosecutors “ignore[e] immigration consequences” motivated her to run for office.⁷⁵ She has also wrongly characterized routine ICE arrests of criminals as “abductions.”⁷⁶

Many of Dehghani-Tafti’s pro-illegal alien, anti-law enforcement sentiments are enshrined in her office’s nonpublic, internal policies obtained by the Committee and Subcommittee. The office’s prosecution policies emphasize that how prosecutors treat driving

⁶⁷ Info. from U.S. Immigr. and Customs Enf’t (July 27, 2026) (on file with Comm.).

⁶⁸ *Id.*

⁶⁹ *Id.*

⁷⁰ Parisa for Justice, Supporting Youth and Keeping Families Together, <https://www.parisaforjustice.com/> (last accessed Apr. 16, 2026).

⁷¹ Consideration of Deferred Action for Child Arrivals (DACA), U.S. Citizenship & Immigr. Servs., <https://www.uscis.gov/DACA> (last accessed Aug. 7, 2026).

⁷² The Justice Digest, Issue IX (July 18, 2022, 4:01 PM), <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/VAARLINGTON/bulletins/321814a>.

⁷³ *Theo Stamos’ and Parisa Tafti’s Responses to ACLU-VA’s Questionnaire on Criminal Justice Reform*, ACLU VIRGINIA, <https://www.acluva.org/theo-stamos-and-parisa-taftis-responses-aclu-vas-questionnaire-criminal-justice-reform/> (last accessed Apr. 16, 2026); see Daniel Nicheanian, “*The Commonwealth’s Attorney Has a Very Holistic Role*”: An interview with Virginia Candidate Parisa Dehghani-Tafti, *BOLTS MAGAZINE* (Feb. 22, 2019), <https://boltsmag.org/interview-with-parisa-tafti-candidate-commonwealths-attorney-arlington-virginia/>.

⁷⁴ The Justice Digest, Issue I (Sept. 8, 2020, 4:55 PM), <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/VAARLINGTON/bulletins/29ec0a3>.

⁷⁵ Andrew F., *Our Favorite Progressive Candidates in 2023 - Parisa Dehghani-Tafti, Commonwealth’s Attorney for Arlington County and the City of Falls Church*, *JEJUNE MAGAZINE* (June 7, 2023), <https://www.jejunemagazine.com/home/parisa-deghghani-tafti>.

⁷⁶ Parisa Dehghani-Tafti, Facebook (July 12, 2025), <https://www.facebook.com/parisa.deghghanitafti/posts/1495879728064494>.

while intoxicated (DWI) cases “can exacerbate disparities,” including for DACA recipients.⁷⁷ Noting that the office “handle[s] cases that have varying levels of immigration concerns all the time,” Dehghani-Tafti’s written policies specify that “DACA is different, especially in the DUI realm.”⁷⁸ She explained in the memo:

A DUI conviction constitutes a “significant misdemeanor” in the eyes of [U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services] and would prevent an individual from renewing their DACA status and thereby subjecting them to deportation back to a country they likely have never known. A DUI conviction for DACA recipients can therefore have disproportionate and devastating collateral consequences. Because of this, we must take an individual’s DACA status into account when developing offers to ensure that, while appropriate sanctions and conditions are put in place to protect the public and prevent future similar behavior, an individual is not deported because of their decision to drive while intoxicated.

In an effort to do our part to prevent the disproportionate collateral consequences of a DUI conviction for a DACA recipient, ensure that defense counsel disclose their client’s DACA status to you *early on*. We can only take appropriate steps if we know about the status to begin with.⁷⁹

In a deposition with the Committee and Subcommittee in July 2026, Dehghani-Tafti stated that “appropriate steps” include fashioning a resolution, or even shifting to a “lateral,” non-DWI charge, for DACA recipients charged with DWI, so that a DWI conviction will not prevent a recipient from keeping his or her DACA status.⁸⁰ She testified:

A: But the policy is to take into consideration that they will not get their status renewed, and to fashion a resolution that would allow them to not have that status or to allow them to get the status renewed while holding them accountable. Sometimes that was revoke bond and spend some time in jail, you know, and then we’ll do like a lateral shift to a different charge. Not dismiss differently than anyone else, not reduce necessarily, but, you know, allow – like do X, Y and Z, and we will then, you know, in consideration of the extra stuff you’ve done, turn it into sort of a lateral different, like -- but lateral charge. And what I mean by lateral is if

⁷⁷ Off. of the Commonwealth Att’y, Arlington and City of Falls Church, Guiding Principles, at 3-4 (Aug. 2024) (on file with Comm.).

⁷⁸ *Id.* (emphasis in original).

⁷⁹ *Id.*

⁸⁰ Deposition of Parisa Dehghani-Tafti, Commonwealth’s Att’y for Arlington Cnty. and the City of Falls Church, Va., at 89 (July 16, 2026) (on file with Comm.).

something is a first degree misdemeanor, it would still be a first degree misdemeanor on their record.

Q: Okay. And this is specifically over concern that their DACA status wouldn't be renewed?

A: Correct. Yes. And we would not allow them to expunge the original charge so that it would be apparent on their record.

DWIs

- I. As a class of cases, DWIs are serious crimes and occur across all traditional boundaries of race, sex, and socioeconomic class. How we treat them, however, can exacerbate disparities, if we allow decisions to be guided by an individual's status in the community, like security clearance, job status, etc.
 - A. One exception, however, is an individual's status as a Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipient. We handle cases that have varying levels of immigration concerns all the time, but DACA is different, especially in the DUI

3

realm. A DUI conviction constitutes a "significant misdemeanor" in the eyes of USCIS and would prevent an individual from renewing their DACA status and thereby subjecting them to deportation back to a country they likely have never known. A DUI conviction for DACA recipients can therefore have disproportionate and devastating collateral consequences. Because of this, we must take an individual's DACA status into account when developing offers to ensure that, while appropriate sanctions and conditions are put in place to protect the public and prevent future similar behavior, an individual is not deported because of their decision to drive while intoxicated.

- B. In an effort to do our part to prevent the disproportionate collateral consequences of a DUI conviction for a DACA recipient, ensure that defense counsel disclose their client's DACA status to you *early on*. We can only take the appropriate steps if we know about the status to begin with. Additionally, be sure to obtain proper documentation of the individual's DACA status, as well as an opinion letter from an immigration attorney discussing the individual's case and analyzing the consequences of a DUI conviction, from defense counsel. Any mitigation—alcohol treatment, counseling, rehab, AA—is also helpful.

Above: Excerpts from Dehghani-Tafti's policies related to her office's prosecutorial treatment of DWIs for DACA recipients.

**ARLINGTON COUNTY COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY
PARISA DEGHANI-TAFTI ADMITTED THAT PROSECUTORS IN
HER OFFICE MAY CONSIDER IMMIGRATION CONSEQUENCES
FOR CRIMINAL ALIEN DEFENDANTS IN:**



**DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE
CASES**



**CERTAIN CASES
WITH CHILD
VICTIMS**



**POSSESSION OF
A FAKE
IDENTIFICATION
DOCUMENT CASES**



**CERTAIN CASES
INVOLVING
DISARMING A
POLICE OFFICER**

Dehghani-Tafti's preferential treatment of foreign nationals is not limited to DACA recipients. In her deposition, Dehghani-Tafti conceded that prosecutors in her office may also consider immigration consequences for criminal alien defendants in domestic violence cases, certain cases with child victims, possession of a fake identification document, and even in certain cases involving disarming a police officer.⁸¹ When asked whether her office prohibits the consideration of immigration status or collateral immigration consequences in cases involving child victims, Dehghani-Tafti answered, "It depends on what the charge is."⁸² She claimed a foreign national would be "absolutely ineligible" for a consideration of immigration consequences in a case involving "sexual assault" on a child, but she refused to give additional examples.⁸³ She testified:

Q: So does your office, then, prohibit the consideration of immigration status consideration or collateral immigration consequences in cases involving child victims?

A: It depends on what the charge is.

Q: Can you give me an example?

A: I mean, if it's a sexual assault, they would be absolutely ineligible. But I don't need to tell my assistants that, because that's common sense.

⁸¹ *Id.* at 106-07, 112-13.

⁸² *Id.* at 106.

⁸³ *Id.*

Q: What about in domestic violence cases?

A: Depends on the case. And it depends, a large part, on the victim.

Q: So there are some domestic violence cases, then, where it is appropriate for an [Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney] in your office to consider immigration consequences so they get a reduced sentence?

A: I said there might be.

Q: But it's not precluded in any policies?

A: Well, if it's inconsistent with public safety, it is precluded.

Q: What about simple assault?

A: It depends on the circumstance because—[witness touches her attorney]—that's an assault. Just pushing somebody is potentially an assault. So it depends on what the facts of the case are.⁸⁴

Dehghani-Tafti testified that prosecutors in her office may seek reduced sentences for aliens to avoid immigration consequences.⁸⁵ However, she also claimed it is unnecessary to delineate in the office's official policies the specific crimes that would disqualify a criminal alien from a prosecutor's consideration of immigration consequences in the alien's case, asserting instead that "weekly meetings" and "impromptu conversations" suffice.⁸⁶ She testified:

A: You've said several times that it wouldn't make sense to consider immigration consequences in a specific case or related to a specific crime and that your policy doesn't specifically delineate prohibitions or exceptions to the consideration. Would it make sense, then, to make it clear for ACAs in your office which crimes would disqualify somebody from a consideration of immigration consequences in their case?

Q: Well, again, what we have are guiding principles. And we have small teams. We have, you know, four supervisors with

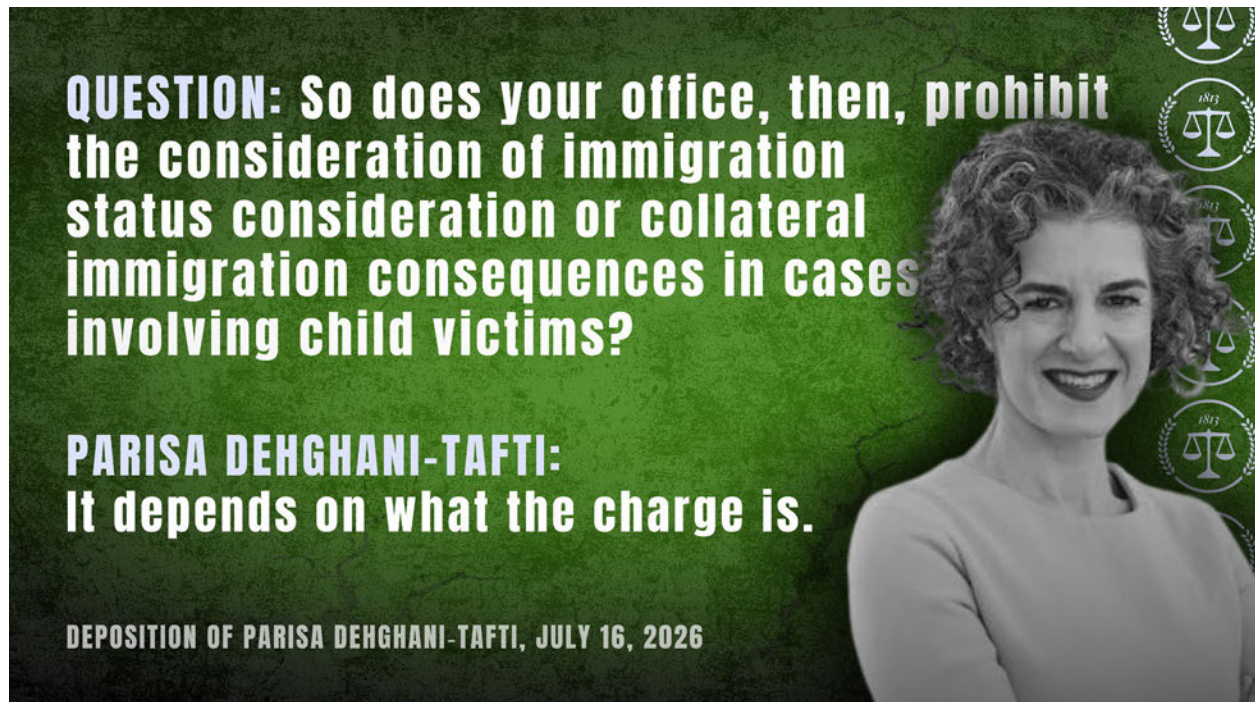
⁸⁴ *Id.*

⁸⁵ *Id.* at 105.

⁸⁶ *Id.* at 115.

a handful of ACAs underneath them. They meet weekly with their staff. And we have twice a month all attorney meetings. And we have many, many impromptu conversations. This is culture, and it doesn't need policies to be written down.⁸⁷

Such an *ad hoc* and inconsistent approach to making prosecutorial decisions based on immigration consequences significantly raises the risk for differential treatment among criminal defendants, even including violent criminals, as well as potential civil rights violations.



Dehghani-Tafti's soft-on-crime, pro-criminal alien policies have devastating and dangerous consequences. On April 12, 2026, ACPD officers arrested Luzvin Orvando Garcia Moran, a Guatemalan national, after he approached a woman, "grabb[ed] her," and "shov[ed] her against a wall," assaulted her, and continued to attack her even after she initially managed to escape from him.⁸⁸ Two bystanders "stepped in to help and called the police."⁸⁹ Garcia Moran is an illegal alien whose yearslong criminal history includes multiple arrests and charges, including for public intoxication, assault and battery, and probation violations.⁹⁰ He has now been charged with "abduction of a person with intent to defile, sodomy by force or victim helplessness[,] and

⁸⁷ *Id.* at 115.

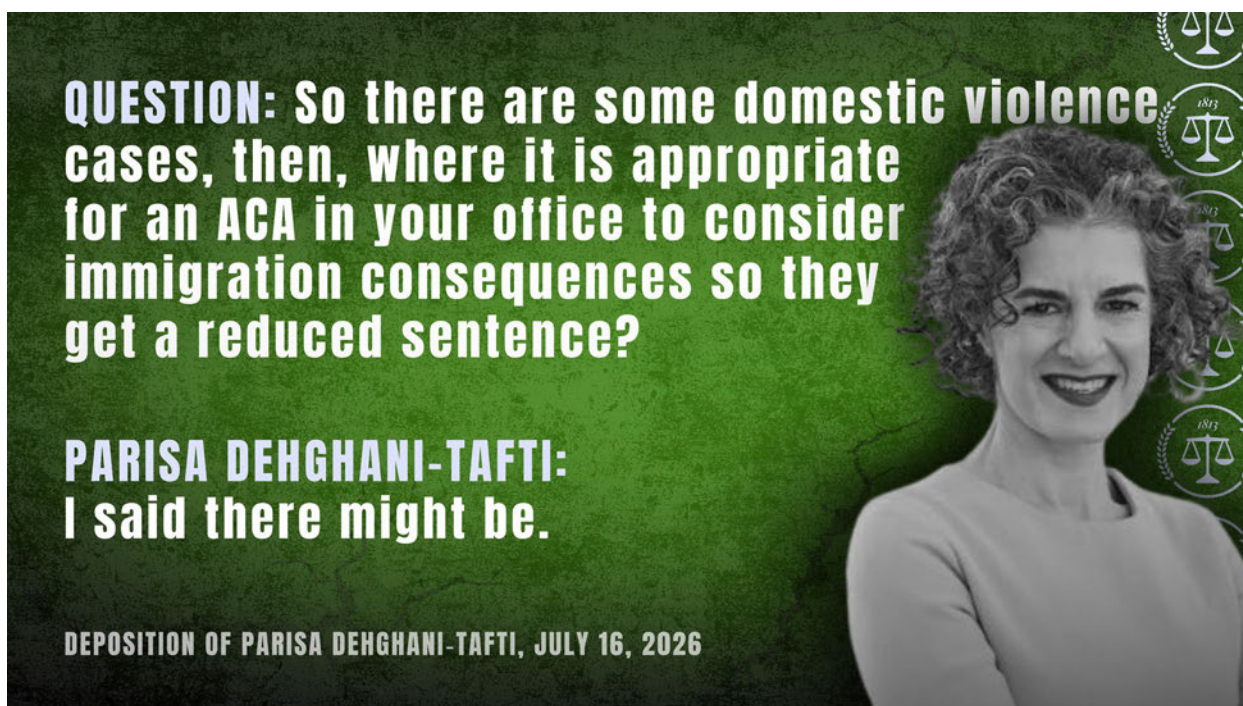
⁸⁸ Thomas Mates, *Man accused of attempted rape after woman attacked in Arlington*, ABC 7 NEWS (Apr. 13, 2026, 5:37 PM), <https://wjla.com/news/local/man-accused-of-attempted-rape-after-woman-attacked-in-arlington>.

⁸⁹ *Id.*

⁹⁰ Press Release, ICE pleads with Gov. Abigail Spanberger's sanctuary state of Virginia not to release accused sexual predator, U.S. Immigr. & Customs Enf't (Apr. 20, 2026), <https://www.ice.gov/news/releases/ice-pleads-gov-abigail-spanbergers-sanctuary-state-virginia-not-release-accused>.

assault in an alleged attempted rape.”⁹¹

Court records reveal that, for years, Dehghani-Tafti’s office refused to fully prosecute Garcia Moran for multiple crimes, including assault and battery and false identification to law enforcement.⁹² According to an Arlington County crime report, in May 2025, Garcia Moran approached a group of juveniles and “allegedly assault[ed] the victim and display[ed] what appeared to be a firearm before fleeing on foot.”⁹³ When police arrived, Garcia Moran “attempted to flee from officers and a struggle ensued during which [Garcia Moran] attempted to grab an officer’s firearm.”⁹⁴ When Dehghani-Tafti’s office finally prosecuted Garcia Moran for disarming a law enforcement officer of a stun gun, a sweetheart plea deal ensured he was back onto northern Virginia streets within months of his felony conviction.⁹⁵ That plea deal came *after* a probation officer warned that Garcia Moran was “likely to get intoxicated and to engage in behaviors that could result in disorderly conduct or assault charges.”⁹⁶ The officer concluded that Garcia Moran was “a danger to self and others.”⁹⁷



⁹¹ Peter Pinedo, *Spanberger receives DHS plea to hold illegal immigrant repeat offender now charged in attempted rape*, FOX NEWS (Apr. 15, 2026, 5:59 PM), <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/dhs-urges-spanberger-hold-illegal-migrant-charged-attempted-rape-cites-25-prior-charges>.

⁹² See, e.g., Arlington County Circuit Court, Criminal Division, Case No. CR25000818-00; Arlington General District Court, General District Court Online Case Information System, Case No. GC24005364-00.

⁹³ Crime Report: May 27, 2025, Arlington Cnty. (May 27, 2025), <https://www.arlingtonva.us/About-Arlington/Newsroom/Articles/2025/Crime-Report-May-27-2025>.

⁹⁴ *Id.*

⁹⁵ Jared Serre, *Probation officer warned attempted rape suspect was ‘danger to self and others’ last year*, ARL NOW (Apr. 16, 2026, 11:45 AM), <https://www.arlnow.com/2026/04/16/probation-officer-warned-attempted-rape-suspect-was-danger-to-self-and-others-last-year/>; Arlington County Circuit, Criminal Division, Case No. CR25000869-00.

⁹⁶ See Serre, *supra* note 95.

⁹⁷ *Id.*

In her deposition with the Committee and Subcommittee, Dehghani-Tafti refused to answer clearly whether her office considered immigration consequences in previous cases involving Garcia Moran. When asked if she could definitively state that prosecutors in her office never considered immigration consequences in any of Garcia Moran’s previous cases, which included dismissed charges and light sentences, Dehghani-Tafti initially answered that his immigration status “wouldn’t have made a difference.”⁹⁸ When pressed for a clear answer as to whether Garcia Moran’s immigration status affected the prosecution, Dehghani-Tafti testified that it was “not a yes-or-no answer” because Garcia Moran was already in the country illegally and subject to deportation.⁹⁹ She testified:

Q: So can you definitively say here today, then, that [Garcia Moran’s] immigration status had zero effect on your office’s prosecution of him in any of his previous cases?

A: It wouldn’t have made a difference. And we advocated for a finding of guilt. You’re trying to – you’re trying to – I’m answering your question. You just don’t like the answer. I’m not – we’re done.

Q: He was seeking a “yes” or “no.”

A: Yes, but it’s not a yes or no answer.¹⁰⁰

Her refusal to answer the basic question—and then qualify her answer—came despite her acknowledgement that she had recently discussed Garcia Moran with the prosecutors in her office.¹⁰¹ When confronted by her office’s recurring under-prosecution of Garcia Moran, Dehghani-Tafti repeatedly blamed victims for not cooperating.¹⁰²

Dehghani-Tafti also opposes commonsense immigration enforcement. In her deposition with the Committee, Dehghani-Tafti stood by her previous characterization of the Laken Riley Act as a “heinous bill.”¹⁰³ Named in honor of a University of Georgia nursing student who was viciously assaulted and murdered by an illegal alien from Venezuela who had been previously arrested for a theft offense, the Laken Riley Act mandates immigration detention for illegal aliens who are convicted of, charged with, or arrested for “burglary, theft, larceny, shoplifting, or assault of a law enforcement officer offense, or any crime that results in death or serious bodily injury to another person.”¹⁰⁴ It also requires the DHS Secretary to issue a detainer for and take

⁹⁸ Deposition of Parisa Dehghani-Tafti, Commonwealth’s Att’y for Arlington Cnty. and the City of Falls Church, H. Comm. on the Judiciary, at 112 (July 16, 2026).

⁹⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰⁰ *Id.* at 112. The initial “yes” in her answer reflects an acknowledgement that the Committee sought a yes-or-no answer, not that she answered in the affirmative to the initial question. This understanding is confirmed by Dehghani-Tafti’s subsequent assertion that the question could not be answered with a “yes” or a “no.”

¹⁰¹ *Id.* at 111-12.

¹⁰² *Id.* at 108-09.

¹⁰³ *Id.* at 72.

¹⁰⁴ See 8 U.S.C. § 1226(c)(1)(E).

custody of those criminal aliens¹⁰⁵ and gives state attorneys general the authority to sue the federal government for certain violations of immigration law.¹⁰⁶ Parisa Dehghani-Tafti claimed that the Laken Riley Act discourages domestic violence victims from reporting crime and said she does not think that Laken Riley’s murder “has anything to do with immigration”—despite the fact that Laken Riley was murdered by an illegal alien.¹⁰⁷

Q: In a Facebook post and we can mark it as an exhibit you described the Laken Riley Act as a heinous bill. What makes the Laken Riley Act heinous?

A: It dissuades victims of domestic violence from reporting, and it erodes confidence between the community and law enforcement because it allows for people to be deported on a mere accusation of a crime rather than on proof that they actually committed the crime.

Q: So you still believe that the Laken Riley Act is a heinous bill?

A: I think what happened to Laken Riley is beyond horrible. Nobody should have to endure that. You know, I’m a mother and I cannot imagine the pain that I would feel if something – if my children were murdered. I don’t think that Laken Riley’s case has anything to do with immigration.¹⁰⁸

Contrary to Dehghani-Tafti’s assertion, the Laken Riley Act related to mandatory detention of illegal alien criminals, not their potential deportation, as illegal aliens are *already* removable from the United States based on their lack of immigration status. The Laken Riley Act did not change this longstanding fact of immigration law. Instead, it ensured that the DHS Secretary files a detainer for, and takes custody of, the most dangerous illegal alien criminals. In doing so, the Laken Riley Act provided law enforcement with additional tools to use in removing criminal aliens from American streets—a goal one would think that Arlington County’s top prosecutor would support.

In addition, in her deposition, Dehghani-Tafti defended her previous characterization of ICE arrests as “abductions.” When asked if all ICE arrests are “abductions,” she seemed to assert that one of the only times an ICE arrest is not an “abduction” is when there is a judicial warrant,¹⁰⁹ which is not required under federal law and is not possible in the overwhelming

¹⁰⁵ See 8 U.S.C. § 1226(c)(3).

¹⁰⁶ See, e.g., 8 U.S.C. § 1226(f).

¹⁰⁷ Deposition of Parisa Dehghani-Tafti, Commonwealth’s Att’y for Arlington Cnty. and the City of Falls Church, H. Comm. on the Judiciary, at 72 (July 16, 2026).

¹⁰⁸ *Id.*

¹⁰⁹ *Id.* at 73-74.

majority of immigration cases unless a foreign national is charged with a *federal* crime.¹¹⁰ Because the illegal aliens in the custody of state and local law enforcement typically have been arrested for or charged with a *state* crime, there is no way in which federal immigration authorities can obtain a federal judicial warrant. Radical prosecutors like Dehghani-Tafti know this fact, but they willfully conflate the law to mislead the American people.

CONCLUSION

Democrats' open-borders policies and sanctuary jurisdictions have had devastating consequences for U.S. citizens. Even after the American people resoundingly rejected Democrats' pro-illegal alien policies in November 2024, Democrats across the country reinforced sanctuary policies to ensure that the millions of illegal aliens who entered the U.S. are never removed from the country. Arlington County, Virginia, is just one example of Democrats' efforts to erase national borders and undermine immigration enforcement. Meanwhile, President Trump and House and Senate Republicans continue to work on commonsense solutions to secure the border, enforce federal immigration law, and protect American communities.

On March 5, 2026, the Committee favorably reported H.R. 7640, the Shut Down Sanctuary Policies Act. The Shut Down Sanctuary Policies Act protects American communities by prohibiting state and local laws and policies that restrict cooperation with federal immigration officials. The bill also would defend cooperative jurisdictions from frivolous lawsuits from far-left sanctuary officials, allow jurisdictions to receive federal funding if they do not thwart federal law, and give much-needed relief to victims of sanctuary policies. The Committee will continue its oversight into sanctuary jurisdictions that prioritize the comfort of illegal alien criminals over the safety of U.S. citizens.

¹¹⁰ See *Fairfax Cnty., Va.: The Dangerous Consequences of Sanctuary Policies: Hearing Before the Subcomm. on Immigr. Integrity, Security, and Enf't of the H. Comm. on the Judiciary*, 119th Cong. (May 14, 2026) (testimony of former Va. Att'y Gen. Jason Miyares).