



County of Monterey

Board of Supervisors

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February XX, 2026

The Honorable Alex Padilla
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Adam Schiff
12 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: A bill to amend Chapter 93 of title 18, United States Code, to prohibit obstruction of immigration laws by official interference. (S. 3744) – OPPOSE

Dear Senators Padilla and Schiff:

On behalf of the County of Monterey Board of Supervisors, I am writing to express our opposition to S. 3744, a bill to amend Chapter 93 of title 18, United States Code, to prohibit obstruction of immigration laws by official interference. Our County is home to diverse communities, with robust agricultural and small-business economies. While we recognize the federal government's authority over immigration policy, this proposed legislation raises serious concerns regarding federal overreach, local governance, and unintended consequences for economic output, public safety and effective law enforcement.

Local government and local law enforcement are best positioned to assess community needs and to allocate limited resources accordingly. Policies which prioritize community trust and safety—especially between immigrant communities and local law enforcement—are essential to ensure that crimes are reported, and witnesses cooperate during investigations to ensure perpetrators are caught. Federal measures which undercut, criminalize, and penalize local officials for exercising appropriate discretion in these relationships will weaken public safety for all residents, regardless of immigration status.

The proposed bill would also impose additional legal and financial burdens on the County as it seeks to stretch an already limited budget. The threat of criminal liability for local officials—even when acting in good faith—will deter qualified individuals from public service and expose counties to costly litigation, all while diverting resources away from community members who need essential services and public safety most.

Not to mention that the legislation raises substantial concerns about the erosion of federalism. Local jurisdictions have traditionally retained discretion over how to structure law enforcement and public services for their local communities. One federal mandate fails to account for the unique economic, demographic, and geographic realities for individual communities. Our County is committed to upholding the law and cooperating with federal partners, within the bounds of the Constitution and established legal frameworks. However, we believe that collaboration—not coercion or criminalization for local decision-making—is a better path forward for all stakeholders.



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For these reasons, we respectfully urge you to oppose S. 3744, a bill to amend Chapter 93 of title 18, United States Code, to prohibit obstruction of immigration laws by official interference and to instead pursue comprehensive approaches to immigration policy that respect the vital role of independent local governments and the importance of community trust. Thank you for your continued support for the County of Monterey and on behalf of the Board of Supervisors urge you to oppose S. 3744.

Sincerely,

DRAFT

Wendy Root Askew, Chair
Board of Supervisors

Cc: The Honorable Zoe Lofgren, 18th Congressional District
The Honorable Jimmy Panetta, 19th Congressional District