



FLORIDA CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS
The nonpartisan public policy voice of the Catholic Church in Florida

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Prepared Remarks
Ingrid Delgado, Associate for Social Concerns/Respect Life
Press Conference
HB 9 – “Sanctuary Cities”
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Thank you and good morning. My name is Ingrid Delgado, representing the Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops.

When debating and referring to HB 9, we often hear and use the term “sanctuary cities.” This deeply polarizing term is a misnomer and is usually misunderstood.

Commonly, the term has been utilized to refer to fictitious policies that prohibit criminal prosecution of undocumented migrants. Criminal violations are investigated and prosecuted independent of a person’s status; and local law enforcement already shares information with ICE.

To be clear, the Florida counties that require judicial orders or criminal warrants before holding individuals subject to ICE detainers are not sanctuaries. They do not violate federal immigration code and are prudent in light of the clear liability established by the courts arising from the detention of an individual without such a warrant or order.

Immigration is a federal policy issue, not within state purview, and passage of HB 9 would divert limited local resources to expand a federal program. We urge comprehensive *federal* immigration reform – not a patchwork of state policies.

We are a country of laws; historically we have also been a country of compassion and a country of immigrants. Quoting a US bishops statement on migration, “It is necessary to safeguard the United States in a manner that does not cause us to lose our humanity.” We oppose HB 9.