



April 22, 2016

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The Honorable Paul Gosar
504 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Gosar:

On behalf of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), I am writing to express our appreciation to you for introducing legislation (HR 5035) that would make critically important changes to the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP). CSAC applauds your ongoing leadership on SCAAP, and we are pleased to endorse this bipartisan bill.

As you know, the authorization for SCAAP expired in fiscal year 2011. While funding for the program has been extended through the annual appropriations process, we strongly support provisions of HR 5035 that would renew the program's authorization at \$950 million annually through fiscal year 2020.

In addition, CSAC strongly supports language of the bill that would allow jurisdictions to be reimbursed for the costs of housing undocumented individuals who are *accused* of certain crimes – and not only *convicted* of such offenses, as is allowed under the current statute. This commonsense change would correct a long-standing flaw in federal law that disadvantages county governments, which often spend a considerable amount of financial resources housing pretrial offenders who may not ultimately be convicted of the crimes for which they are accused. Current law also essentially creates a gap in reimbursement if an individual's pretrial incarceration period and subsequent conviction do not occur within the same fiscal year.

Finally, we strongly support provisions of your legislation that would require the Department of Justice to fully compensate jurisdictions for the costs of incarcerating the "unknown" category of SCAAP inmates. As you are aware, unknown inmates are classified as such because they have not had prior contact with federal immigration authorities and therefore are not included in the Department of Homeland Security database. We share your belief that counties should not be penalized for the Federal government's inability to verify the status of undocumented inmates.

Thank you again for your strong leadership on SCAAP. We are pleased to endorse HR 5035 and we look forward to continuing to work with you on this issue. Should you have any questions or if you need any additional information, please contact Joe Krahn, CSAC Federal Representative, Waterman and Associates at (202) 898-1444.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matt Cate".

Matt Cate
CSAC Executive Director