

United States Senate

January 22, 2024

The Honorable Rod Bray
President Pro Tempore
Indiana Senate

The Honorable Todd Huston
Speaker of the House
Indiana House of Representatives

The Honorable Greg Taylor
Minority Leader
Indiana Senate

The Honorable Phil GiaQuinta
Minority Leader
Indiana House of Representatives

Dear President Pro Tempore Bray, Minority Leader Taylor, Speaker Huston, and Minority Leader GiaQuinta,

I write in full support of Senate Bill 181, legislation introduced to the Indiana General Assembly by State Senator Eric Koch. Senate Bill 181 will address a deficiency in Indiana Code that hampers the fulfilment of P.L. 171-2011, an act to amend the Indiana Code concerning criminal law and procedure. Senate Bill 181 will ensure that State law enforcement will be able to protect Hoosiers from abuses introduced by sanctuary cities.

A group of Hoosier Sheriffs and I traveled to the southern border in November 2023 to gain a better understanding of the dangers of the anarchic insecurity at the border and how law enforcement may build better relationships to help protect the American people. I saw again how the failure to enforce the law has indulged criminality including human smuggling, violence, drug trafficking, theft, vandalism, and more. Indiana cannot exacerbate this crisis by extending toleration and refuge to foreign criminals who do not abide by our laws.

While at the border it was impressed upon me again that international drug traffickers such as violent cartels are increasing their distribution of dangerous fentanyl in the United States.¹ The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that more than one million people have died as a result of drug overdoses since 1999.² Approximately 75 percent of all drug overdoses involved opioids, the same type of drug that has most ravaged Indiana.³

Many of the more than 6 million immigrants encountered at nation's southern border have entered the heartland. It must be abundantly clear and the state should have every tool at its disposable to convey that Indiana is not a sanctuary state and that the state will enforce our laws as they pertain to local governments who desire to be sanctuary cities.

¹ Drug seizure statistics. U.S. Customs and Border Protection. (n.d.). <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/drug-seizure-statistics>. Accessed 19 January 2024.

² Drug overdose deaths (2023) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/deaths/index.html>. Accessed: 19 January 2024).

³ Overdose Prevention. "Indiana Drug Overdose Dashboard," December 11, 2023. <https://www.in.gov/health/overdose-prevention/overdose-surveillance/indiana/>. Accessed 19 January 2024.

I encourage the General Assembly to pass Senator Koch's legislation without delay. Thank you in advance for your consideration. If you have any questions related to my support, please contact Ethan Ashley in Senator Braun's office at Ethan_Ashley@braun.senate.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike Braun". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mike" and last name "Braun" clearly legible.

Mike Braun
U.S. Senator

CC: The Honorable Eric Koch, Senate District 44