



May 29, 2014

Re: ACLU Recommends Voting NO on Rep. Collins' Amendment No. 16 to  
H.R. 4660

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Good Afternoon,

On behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union, please find below our vote recommendation opposing Rep. Doug Collins' (R-GA) amendment No. 16 to H.R. 4660, the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act 2015. A recorded vote on this amendment is anticipated on the House floor today.

Please call Chris Rickerd, ACLU Policy Counsel (202/675-2339) with any questions.

Regards,

Laura W. Murphy  
Director, Washington Legislative Office

**ACLU Vote Recommendation Opposing Representative Collins' Amendment No. 16 to H.R. 4660, the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act 2015**

**Representative Doug Collins (R-GA-9) has filed an amendment to H.R. 4660, the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act 2015 to prohibit the use of funds under the Act for state and local governments that contravene immigration laws.**

**The American Civil Liberties Union recommends a NO vote on the Collins amendment.**

**Vote NO on the Collins amendment because it purports to address a “sanctuary” problem that doesn’t exist: state and local governments are not contravening federal immigration law.**

•Some localities have passed laws and policies—often labeled “sanctuary” laws—that limit the role their law enforcement officers play in enforcing federal immigration law, for the benefit of community policing and reducing crime. Far from contravening federal immigration law, these jurisdictions have enacted carefully considered local policing policies based on what works best to promote public safety, without preventing federal immigration enforcement. They prioritize budgetary and law enforcement resources according to community needs, *while still permitting federal immigration enforcement to take place.*

**Vote NO on the Collins amendment because it conflicts with expert law enforcement opinions while hurting victims and witnesses of crime.**

•Law enforcement leaders across the country, including the Major Cities Chiefs Association, have said they need to have the trust and confidence of all residents in our communities in order to fight crime and protect the public (the number one priority of state and local police). That principle is the cornerstone of community policing. Victims and witnesses won’t come forward if they fear that police officers will act as immigration agents, and communities that recognize this key public safety tenet are not contravening immigration laws.

**Vote NO on the Collins amendment because it interferes with the ability of states and localities to decide what is best for their own communities.**

•No federal law requires state and local police departments to enforce federal immigration law. State and local laws requiring police to enforce federal immigration law interfere with federal immigration priorities, undermine a uniform immigration policy, and encourage the racial profiling of Latinos, Asians, and all others who appear “foreign.” Requiring local police to analyze and enforce federal immigration law, as the Collins amendment would encourage, is to commandeer the ability of states and localities to carry out their job of community policing and to interfere without justification in matters of local concern.