

**Republican Perspective**  
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**by Ed Manning**

**SANCTUARY NATION**

*"It is legal because I wish it." Louis XIV*

It seems like we have laws, rules and regulations for just about everything. We may not always like them but that is the price for living in a civil society. We have laws that protect our rights as citizens that guarantee our basic freedoms like freedom of speech, religion and the press.

What happens when our federal government and 33 California cities decide to nullify a law? In 2010 the Obama administration announced it would not sue sanctuary cities that refuse to cooperate with the federal government on immigration. Yet under Section 642 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996, it is a violation of federal law for any state or local government to "prohibit, or in any way restrict" law enforcement or other government officials from sending or receiving information from the federal government on the "citizenship or immigration status, lawful or unlawful, of any individual."

It is most troubling when the President of the United States selectively chooses which federal laws he wishes to enforce. Under Obama, we now have become a sanctuary nation. Many large urban cities (and some small) have adopted so-called "sanctuary" policies. Generally, sanctuary policies instruct city employees not to notify the federal government of the presence of illegal aliens living in their communities.

One justification of these cities is the guise of protecting "immigrant rights". However, what these mostly Democratic politicians choose not to recognize is that illegal aliens are not immigrants; immigrants come to the US legally and maintain their legal status. Another justification is that illegal aliens that are either victims or witnesses will not report crimes for fear of deportation. Perhaps if they were not permitted to stay in the first place, they would be neither victims nor witnesses of crime.

Let me be clear that Republicans are for legal immigration. We are not advocating for the deportation of current illegal aliens and are willing to work towards improving our immigration policies. Unfortunately, reform can only be accomplished after Obama leaves office as it's "my way or the highway" with this President.

Yes, we are a nation of immigrants not a nation of illegal aliens. Further, illegals entering the country also include the bad guys as the numbers so reflect. In 2013, the Obama administration released 36,007 criminal illegals who had 88,000 convictions. These convictions included 193 homicides, 426 sexual assaults, 303 kidnappings and 1,075 aggravated assaults. In 2014, the Obama administration released another

30,558 criminal illegals that had a total of 79,059 convictions. Also in 2014, illegal aliens accounted for nearly 37% of the nations sentencing cases and 12% of murder convictions!

These statistics do not back the Left's oft heard argument that illegals are just coming here to work. Nor does it support their statements that the US is breaking-up families. Illegal aliens themselves are breaking-up their own families and then expect US citizens to provide a plethora of domestic benefits. Democrats want new voters and Republicans want cheap labor while the silent majority watches the country erode.

The murder of a beautiful innocent young woman by a five-times deported illegal in San Francisco is not a one-off. Felony crimes against American citizens are becoming a way of life in sanctuary nation. Gun sales are on the rise because citizens know that if you have to wait for the police it is too late.

The President and the Department of Homeland Security tell us that our southern border is secure yet we see illegals that have been deported multiple times returning to murder the innocent. We see the City of San Francisco and the Federal government playing the blame game. They believe that the hullabaloo will blow over and harboring illegals will once again be an everyday occurrence in sanctuary nation.

To be sure, the Illegal Reform and Immigration Responsibility Act has been nullified by both Obama and many cities. Let's play the Substitution Game: what if an American city declared that it was a sanctuary for conducting only traditional marriage? How long would it take for the iron fist of the feds to come crashing down?

Obama had words of sympathy for the families of Trayvon Martin and Michael Brown. On the death of Freddie Gray in Baltimore he commented: "this is not new, and we shouldn't pretend that it's new." His silence on the death of Kathryn Steinle not only reflects his character but to a growing number of Americans may well be his legacy.