



HB 9 – Rule of Law Adherence Act

The Rule of Law Adherence Act ensures that all of Florida is working together, alongside the federal government, to enforce our immigration laws.

Last year's federal immigration enforcement/Rule of Law Adherence Act, CS/HB 9, was heard in three committees and passed the House, but died in the Senate. It was reintroduced by Rep. Metz and was reported favorably by Judiciary Committee on November 7, 2017.

The Rule of Law Adherence Act will require:

- State and local governmental entities and law enforcement agencies to comply with and support the enforcement of federal immigration law.
- Any sanctuary policies currently in effect be repealed within 90 days of the effective date of the Act.
- Officials or employees of state and local governmental entities or law enforcement agencies to report violations of the Act to the Attorney General or state attorney.

The Act will also:

- Allow a person injured by the conduct of an alien unlawfully present in the United States to sue a state or local governmental entity or law enforcement agency whose violation of the Act contributed to the person's injury.
- Establish a violation of the sanctuary policy prohibition by an elected official as grounds for removal from office by the Governor.
- Exempt reporting requirements for witnesses and victims of crimes who cooperate with police investigations into those crimes.

In order for our nation's immigration system to function properly, we must ensure the laws are properly enforced. To blur the line between legal immigration and illegal immigration would send the message that it is easier to come to this nation outside of the legal process, and encourage illegal immigration.

Unfortunately, opponents of this fact have distorted the nature of the bill and its repercussions.

Fact vs. Fiction

Fiction: The bill targets certain people based on their appearance.

Fact: The bill strictly complies with the constitutional prohibition on discrimination based on race, religion, or national origin.

Fiction: The bill will punish undocumented victims of crimes seeking help from the police.

Fact: The bill specifically exempts the reporting requirements for witnesses and victims of crimes who cooperate with police investigations into those crimes.

Fiction: The bill criminalizes people based on a lack of documentation.

Fact: Immigration is a federal issue, and the bill does nothing to change immigration policy or law. It simply requires that the laws on the books are enforced.