

## **Federal Issues – Advocacy Letters**

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- S. 744 Senator Feinstein - Border Security Economic Opportunity and Immigration Act – Letter of Support
- S. 744 Chairman Patrick Leahy, Committee on the Judiciary – Letter of Support
- S. 744 Senator Grassley, Ranking Minority Member Committee on the Judiciary – Letter of Support

**SALUD CARBAJAL**

First District, Chair

**JANET WOLF**

Second District

**DOREEN FARR**

Third District

**PETER ADAM**

Fourth District

**STEVE LAVAGNINO**

Fifth District, Vice Chair



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

County Administration Building

105 East Anapamu Street

Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Telephone: (805) 568-2190

[www.countyofsb.org](http://www.countyofsb.org)

**COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA**

May 8, 2013

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senate  
331 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein:

I have sent the enclosed letters on behalf of the County of Santa Barbara to Chairman Leahy and Ranking Minority Member Grassley of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary, urging them to support your amendment to S. 744, the *Border Security Economic Opportunity and Immigration Act*, that would reauthorize SCAAP through FY 2015, and that would reiterate the ability of local governments such as the County to be reimbursed for costs associated with pre-adjudicated as well as convicted criminal illegal aliens.

Thank you for offering this amendment and for your longstanding leadership on this issue. As you well know, SCAAP was intended to help reimburse State and local governments for costs incurred as a result of the Federal government's failure to control the borders. The 2003 reinterpretation of the original statute by the Department of Justice that no longer allowed local governments to file claims for incarcerated illegal aliens who are not yet convicted caused the County of Santa Barbara's SCAAP reimbursements to drop from \$865,626 to \$358,424.

Please continue to work with your colleagues on the committee in support of your SCAAP amendment, and do not hesitate to let me know if there is any way that the County can be of more assistance in this effort.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters  
Washington Representative

TPW:jaw

Enclosures

**SALUD CARBAJAL**

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**COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA**

May 8, 2013

The Honorable Patrick Leahy, Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
SD-224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to reiterate its support for the inclusion of provisions in immigration reform legislation that reimburse local governments for the local impacts of services to undocumented individuals, including the costs associated with the incarceration of illegal aliens charged with felony or misdemeanor crimes.

The State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) program was designed to help pay for costs incurred as a result of the Federal government's failure to control the borders, enabling States and local jurisdictions to submit reimbursement claims for the costs of incarcerating criminal illegal aliens. Until FY 2003, the Department of Justice allowed local governments to claim and be reimbursed for illegal aliens under SCAAP who had not yet been adjudicated, reasoning logically that those costs were no less valid than post-adjudication costs. However, when DOJ reinterpreted the SCAAP statute it no longer allowed local governments to file claims for incarcerated illegal aliens who are not yet convicted. That reinterpretation caused the County of Santa Barbara's SCAAP reimbursements to drop from \$865,626 to \$358,424.

It is our understanding that Senator Feinstein is proposing an amendment during your committee's markup of S. 744, the *Border Security Economic Opportunity and Immigration Act*, that would reauthorize SCAAP through FY 2015, and would also confirm the ability for local governments such as the County to be reimbursed for costs associated with pre-adjudicated as well as convicted criminal illegal aliens. Please support Senator Feinstein's amendment, and urge the members of your committee to also do so. I thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters  
Washington Representative

TPW:jaw

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**COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA**

May 8, 2013

The Honorable Chuck Grassley  
Ranking Minority Member  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
SD-152 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Grassley:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to reiterate its support for the inclusion of provisions in immigration reform legislation that reimburse local governments for the local impacts of services to undocumented individuals, including the costs associated with the incarceration of illegal aliens charged with felony or misdemeanor crimes.

The State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) program was designed to help pay for costs incurred as a result of the Federal government's failure to control the borders, enabling States and local jurisdictions to submit reimbursement claims for the costs of incarcerating criminal illegal aliens. Until FY 2003, the Department of Justice allowed local governments to claim and be reimbursed for illegal aliens under SCAAP who had not yet been adjudicated, reasoning logically that those costs were no less valid than post-adjudication costs. However, when DOJ reinterpreted the SCAAP statute it no longer allowed local governments to file claims for incarcerated illegal aliens who are not yet convicted. That reinterpretation caused the County of Santa Barbara's SCAAP reimbursements to drop from \$865,626 to \$358,424.

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Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters  
Washington Representative

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