

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Alabama.

SANCTUARY CITIES

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I first want to thank Senator ALEXANDER, and I have a few remarks to make about sanctuary cities and how they threaten the safety of our country.

I am cosponsoring Senator COTTON's amendment to this bill that would withhold Federal law enforcement funds to sanctuary jurisdictions. The amendment, based largely on the provisions of the Michael Davis, Jr. and Danny Oliver in Honor of State and Local Law Enforcement Act, which we introduced a few weeks ago, ensures that jurisdictions that choose to endanger their communities and the public at large by adopting these reckless policies receive no Federal law enforcement funding.

It is a fundamental principle of law enforcement that individuals who are tried in one jurisdiction and who also face charges in other jurisdictions are held and turned over to the next jurisdiction before being released because it becomes an extremely dangerous problem if they are released before charges are disposed of in another jurisdiction. That is being violated deliberately and openly by a number of cities in the country as an act of defiance and disrespect for those traditions of courtesy between Federal and State jurisdictions and even county and city jurisdictions.

Congress has an obligation to ensure that limited taxpayer dollars are not given to those cities and counties that refuse to cooperate with basic Federal law enforcement efforts to remove criminal aliens from the country.

I would like to take a few moments to talk about the life of Kate Steinle. Kate was a 32-year-old young woman who grew up approximately 40 miles east of San Francisco in Pleasanton, CA. She graduated from Amador Valley High School and California Polytechnic State University. She worked as a sales representative for a medical device equipment company and was precisely the type of person every parent aspires for their child to become. Kate's family described her as "loving, smart and beautiful." Kate's brother said that "she was the most wonderful, loving, caring person." Kate's friends described her as an "amazing, very compassionate person" with an infectious smile and the kind of friend who was always there.

Last Wednesday, Kate had plans to visit her brother and his wife in Pleasanton with the hopes of learning whether she would soon have a new

niece or nephew. Before leaving, she spent some time with her father strolling around San Francisco and taking pictures at Pier 14—one of the busiest and most popular tourist destinations in the city.

While on Pier 14 and in broad daylight, Kate was shot to death by an illegal alien. Kate's mother, Liz Sullivan, described the horrific encounter to the San Francisco Chronicle, explaining that Kate just kept saying, "Dad, help me, help me." Kate's father performed CPR until the paramedics arrived and took her to the hospital, where she fought for her life but ultimately passed away.

Her death was at the hands of Francisco Sanchez, an illegal alien with seven felony convictions who had been deported to Mexico at least six separate times, most recently in 2009. According to information obtained by my office, this individual's criminal history includes multiple criminal convictions and lengthy Federal and State prison sentences dating back to 1991, including felony heroin possession, felony manufacture of narcotics, revoked probation, and at least four convictions for illegal reentry after deportation, among others.

In an interview with local media, this individual admitted to shooting Kate. In the same interview, the individual stated that he repeatedly returned to San Francisco because he knew San Francisco was a sanctuary city where he would not be pursued by immigration officials.

Make no mistake—in essence, that is what a sanctuary city is. Not only do they not honor detainers—the basic law enforcement requirement between jurisdictions—but they send a signal that "No matter whether you are legal or illegal, you are safe in our city, and we will do nothing to facilitate your apprehension for violations of law."

Despite this extensive criminal history of approximately six prior deportations and no obligation to release this individual to local custody in San Francisco—a jurisdiction that is known to release illegal immigrants back into the public—Federal authorities turned this individual over to San Francisco on March 26.

I question whether the Federal Government should have ever turned him over to San Francisco. Perhaps they should have deported him on the spot. But, courtesy says, San Francisco indicated they had another criminal charge and they turned him over. The charge apparently was for distribution of a controlled substance. On April 15, for reasons which at this point are unclear, this individual was released from San Francisco County Jail—an action that led directly to the death of Kate Steinle on July 1.

So San Francisco filed a detainer with the Bureau of Prisons, which had this individual in custody, and the Bureau of Prisons dutifully—according to, it appears, normal procedures—turned him over to San Francisco for proc-

essing of San Francisco's criminal charge. Then, the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, doing its job, filed their detainer with San Francisco in effect saying: San Francisco, when you finish handling this case, he is ours to be deported. Being a sanctuary city, however, San Francisco did not honor it.

Notably, within the same 24-hour period, across the country in another sanctuary jurisdiction—Laredo, TX—Angelica Martinez was brutally murdered with a hammer by her husband, Juan Francisco De Luna Vasquez, an illegal alien. He had been deported from the United States four times. Local police said this was the third violent encounter between this couple and that Vasquez had also had a previous driving-while-intoxicated charge and a charge for evading arrest. As a sanctuary city, Laredo refused to even tell the Department of Homeland Security of the arrest and denied Homeland Security the ability to file a detainer with their jurisdiction. They just denied it.

These cases, colleagues, highlight the tragic and completely avoidable consequences of sanctuary jurisdiction policies. Indeed, if not for sanctuary cities and the Obama administration's continued destruction in other areas of immigration enforcement, Kate and others surely would be alive today. Her death could have been prevented, but the extreme open borders ideology that rejects even the deportation of criminals—that is, people who commit crimes other than the crime of entering the country illegally—led to her death, as it has led to the death of many others.

Although sanctuary jurisdictions are not a recent development, they have been allowed to flourish under this administration. Let me repeat that. This administration has allowed sanctuary cities to flourish. On a few occasions, officials in the government have complained, once about Chicago, Cook County, but no action was ever taken to pressure Cook County to change. The administration has not only refused to stop cities from acting in this way but has emboldened them with this systematic dismantling of immigration enforcement.

In fact, while this administration has taken legal action against State and local jurisdictions that have simply attempted to help the Federal Government enforce our immigration laws, they sued them to block their efforts to enforce the law or help the Federal Government enforce the law—States and counties which have never attempted to deport people, but they have taken efforts when they capture somebody for a crime or for a DUI and find out they are illegally in the country—they would like to be able to turn them over to the Federal Government in some fashion so they can be deported.

This has been resisted by the Federal Government, unfortunately. In 2010,