

CITY OF FREMONT
OFFICE OF MAYOR

DANIEL R. SANCHEZ
MAYOR

Testimony in Support of House Bill 200

Chairman, Vice Chair, Ranking Member, and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 200. I would have been honored to give this testimony in person; however, due to a scheduling conflict and the short notice, I regret that I could not attend.

As we continue, as a nation, to secure our borders from individuals who enter the country illegally and commit violent crimes, this legislation presents an opportunity for the State of Ohio to lead in protecting our communities.

Make no mistake—I fully support those who come to the United States legally. I come from a large Hispanic family in Fremont, Ohio. Many of my aunts and uncles worked hard, went through the legal immigration process, followed the law, and proudly became United States citizens. They did not allow financial barriers or other obstacles to stop them from achieving and living the American Dream.

Unfortunately, my family has experienced firsthand the devastating consequences when individuals who should not be in this country commit acts of violence.

On March 9, 2014, my cousin, who was working as a bartender, was shot and killed at my aunt's Hispanic establishment. An off-duty police officer and another innocent person were also killed. This was a completely random act of violence. The individual responsible for this crime was in the country illegally and had a criminal history with numerous law enforcement contacts.

Then, on December 11, 2016, another member of my family was shot point-blank in the head while holding her infant child. The person responsible was the child's father, who was also in this country illegally. There had been known domestic issues and prior law enforcement calls to the residence. Unfortunately, during those previous calls, probable cause was not established for an arrest.

As a former law enforcement officer who remains OPOTA certified, I believe we must give our officers every lawful tool possible to protect our communities. Being in this country illegally is already a violation of the law. Law enforcement officers should be allowed to act on that violation when it is encountered during the course of their duties.

I believe I may be the only male Hispanic mayor currently serving in the State of Ohio, and I proudly support those who come to our nation legally, follow the law, and pursue the American Dream.

House Bill 200 is about public safety, accountability, and ensuring that our laws are respected.

Ohio has the opportunity to lead by standing with law enforcement, protecting innocent families, and making it clear that violent criminals who enter our country illegally will not be tolerated in our communities.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,


Mayor Daniel R. Sanchez
City of Fremont, Ohio

