



IDAHO

FRATERNAL ORDER

OF POLICE

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Senate State Affairs Committee
Idaho State Legislature
Boise, Idaho

Re: Opposition to House Bill 659

Chairman and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Idaho Fraternal Order of Police, we respectfully express our opposition to **House Bill 659**.

First, this legislation places additional responsibilities on local law enforcement officers who are already stretched thin responding to calls for service and protecting our communities with Idaho laws.

Second, Idaho has previously taken the position that state and local law enforcement should not be forced to carry out federal policy decisions. In 2014, **the Idaho FOP worked with the Idaho Legislature to help pass Senate Bill 1332**, which protects Idaho officers from being compelled to enforce certain federal actions related to firearms. That legislation reflected the principle that Idaho officers should not be conscripted into enforcing federal policy mandates.

House Bill 659 moves in the opposite direction by requiring local agencies to apply for and participate in a federal enforcement program. While Idaho law enforcement agencies frequently cooperate with federal partners, **those decisions have traditionally been made at the local level based on resources, priorities, and community needs.**

Additionally, while the bill allows agencies to opt out if they are unable to enter into a memorandum of agreement, it requires those agencies to publicly state the reasons why. This creates concern that departments could be forced to disclose operational challenges such as limited funding, staffing shortages, or other resource limitations. **Publicly identifying these weaknesses could place a target on already strained departments and expose vulnerabilities** that should not be required to be disclosed in statute.

Finally, there is concern about the precedent this legislation sets. **Today the issue may be immigration enforcement, but future federal administrations may pursue policies that Idaho officers and citizens strongly disagree with.** Establishing a statutory mandate requiring local law enforcement to carry out federal enforcement programs could open the door to similar mandates in other policy areas.

For these reasons, the Idaho Fraternal Order of Police respectfully urges the committee to **hold House Bill 659**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Bryan Lovell
President, Idaho FOP