



Idaho Sheriffs' Association

3100 Vista Ave., Suite 203
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March, 16th 2026

Chairman Guthrie and Respected Committee Members,

The Idaho Sheriff's Association opposes House Bill 659.

Idaho's elected Sheriffs take their constitutional oath seriously to uphold and enforce the laws of the State of Idaho and the United States. HB 659 suggests that additional statutory mandates are necessary to ensure cooperation with federal immigration authorities. That implication does not reflect the reality of how Idaho Sheriffs currently operate.

Across our state, Sheriffs maintain strong and effective working relationships with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Every county jail has established processes to share information with ICE regarding arrestees. When ICE determines that an individual is subject to detainer or removal, we coordinate accordingly. This system is functioning properly and ensures immigration enforcement decisions remain with federal authorities, where they belong.

Mandating participation in a 287(g) program would unnecessarily shift federal immigration enforcement responsibilities onto county deputies. Our deputies are already fully committed to addressing public safety concerns within their jurisdictions. Immigration enforcement is a federal function.

Additionally, participation in a 287(g) program carries significant training, administrative, and personnel costs. County budgets are already stretched thin. HB 659 would impose new, unfunded obligations without demonstrated need, particularly when ICE in Idaho is appropriately staffed and has not requested mandatory participation from local agencies.

Sheriffs are independently elected constitutional officers accountable to the citizens of their counties. We support any Sheriff who determines that a 287(g) agreement is in the best interest of their community. However, that decision should remain at the discretion of the locally elected Sheriff—not mandated by state statute.

For these reasons, the Idaho Sheriff's Association respectfully urges your no vote oppose HB 659.

E-mail: acreech@payettecounty.org
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andy Creech".

Andy Creech
Payette County Sheriff
Idaho Sheriffs Association

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