

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN THE  
UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
AND  
THE OFFICE OF THE NEVADA GOVERNOR**

**1. PARTIES:**

The Parties to this Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) are the United States Department of Justice (“DOJ” or “the Department”), and the Office of the Nevada Governor (“Nevada”) (collectively, “the Parties”).

**2. THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND THE ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION CRISIS:**

- a. Millions of aliens illegally entered the United States between January 2021 and January 2025, creating an unprecedented threat to the safety and security of the American people. To protect the country from the devastating consequences of illegal immigration, President Trump has prioritized enforcement of federal immigration laws throughout the United States. Under leadership of President Trump and United States Attorney General Pamela Bondi, the Department of Justice has undertaken a historic effort to enforce federal immigration laws, secure the border, and restore public safety across the nation.
- b. Since January 20, 2025, the Department of Justice has assisted in over 30,000 immigration arrests to secure the border and protect the American public from dangerous criminals; the Drug Enforcement Administration has seized over 46 million fentanyl pills and over 5,600 kilograms of powder fentanyl; the Federal Bureau of Investigation has located over 5,500 unaccompanied alien children who entered the United States without an adult during the prior administration; and U.S. Attorneys across the country have filed over 18,000 felony cases against defendants who illegally reentered the United States following a prior deportation.
- c. Notwithstanding that tremendous public safety initiative, numerous state and local jurisdictions maintain policies that obstruct immigration enforcement and thereby

provide sanctuary to untold numbers of illegal aliens, many with violent criminal records.

- d. The Department of Justice is committed to identifying and ending all “sanctuary jurisdiction” policies within the United States, including laws that impede federal law enforcement and incentivize and provide refuge to aliens unlawfully present in the United States. *See, e.g.*, Memorandum from Attorney General Pamela Bondi re: Sanctuary Jurisdiction Directives (Feb. 5, 2025).
- e. As the nation’s chief law enforcement officer, United States Attorney General Bondi has a responsibility to ensure that no state or local jurisdiction has policies that impede the full operation of federal law. At her direction, the Department of Justice has taken action against sanctuary jurisdictions to compel compliance with federal law and prevent further exacerbation of the border crisis. The Department’s efforts include numerous lawsuits opposing sanctuary policies and defense of the President’s immigration priorities across the nation.
- f. In addition to these efforts, the Department partners with state and local officials who share in the mission to ensure the safety of all Americans. The United States has a long history of cooperation with state and local law enforcement agencies, including for immigration enforcement. Such cooperation is vital to enforcement of federal law and protection of national security. Understanding that need, the Department aims to work with jurisdictions who seek to support federal immigration policy and eliminate all legal barriers to immigration enforcement across the country.

### **3. THE STATE OF NEVADA’S COMMITMENT TO SUPPORT EFFORTS TO ADDRESS THE ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION CRISIS**

- a. Under the leadership of Governor Lombardo, the State of Nevada is committed to addressing our nation’s immigration crisis, and in continuing to take steps to ensure Nevada does not offer sanctuary to illegal aliens.
- b. Governor Lombardo has taken decisive action to combat the fentanyl crisis in Nevada by leading legislative efforts aimed at cracking down on traffickers. He has introduced legislation—in two legislative sessions—to lower the threshold for felony trafficking charges, making it easier to prosecute those distributing

fentanyl. These measures targeted the primary source of illicit fentanyl in the state: cartel-related activity. Although the Governor's proposed pieces of legislation did not pass the Democrat-controlled legislature, the Governor remains committed to protecting Nevadans from the devastating impact of illicit fentanyl.

- c. In September 2023, Governor Lombardo appointed a new Director to lead the Office for New Americans ("ONA") with the direction that certain previously established partnerships and/or practices be terminated. Specifically, ONA ceased providing legal assistance referrals for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals ("DACA") and those seeking Temporary Protected Status or Legal Permanent Residency. Additionally, to prioritize critical resources for citizens, ONA concluded providing constituent services for undocumented immigrant populations with unemployment and alien status issues and ended a national partnership with the American Immigration Council and Emerson Collective which advocated for open-border policies. Numerous local partnerships promoting similar policies were also terminated. Under Governor Lombardo's leadership, the Office for New Americans coordinates with federally recognized resettlement agencies, collaborates with US Citizenship and Immigration Services to assist individuals in preparing for the naturalization process, and leads efforts to restructure Nevada's Refugee Program with an emphasis on workforce development and rapid self-sufficiency. On December 11, 2024, Governor Lombardo signed a joint letter supporting "President Donald Trump's unwavering commitment to make America safe again by addressing the illegal immigration crisis and deporting illegal immigrants who pose a threat to our communities and national security."
- d. On February 6, 2025, Governor Lombardo presented to the Nevada Sheriffs' and Chiefs' Association ("NvSCA") at their quarterly meeting. The Nevada Sheriff's and Chief's Association is an organization comprised of all the elected-Sheriffs and police chiefs in the State of Nevada. During his presentation, highlighting his history of collaboration with the federal government as former Sheriff of Clark County, the Governor stressed the importance of public safety reform and cooperating with our federal partners in immigration-related actions.

- e. On February 15, 2025, the NvSCA sought guidance from the Governor regarding how their members should engage with U.S. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement's ("ICE") 287(g) program. Through his staff, the Governor indicated his support for any engagement with the federal government available to state and local law enforcement.
- f. Nevada Revised Statutes ("NRS") NRS 228.206 and 228.208 require the Nevada Attorney General to draft model policies regarding public employee's obligations when interacting with federal immigration enforcement authorities. The Nevada Attorney General exercised his constitutional independence from the Governor to issue those policies without any direct input from the Governor's Office. The Nevada Attorney General's non-binding Model Immigration Policies were issued on February 24, 2025, and did not align with the Governor's directions because they indicated state and local law enforcement should not support federal immigration activities. Just two days after the Nevada Attorney General released those Model Immigration Policies, the Governor released the following statement:

The Model Immigration Policies released by the Office of the Attorney General are currently under review by the Executive Branch. All affected state agencies will continue to comply with – and enforce – all applicable law. As the Attorney General has conceded, and as the governing statutes make clear, the Model Immigration Policies are non-binding and non-mandatory guidelines. Let me be clear: The Attorney General does not have the authority to make Nevada a sanctuary state or jurisdiction. As long as I am Governor, Nevada will continue to follow federal law.

- g. Simultaneously, the Governor's Office began collaborating with the NvSCA in support of their response to the Nevada Attorney General's Model Immigration Policy. Based on the Governor's extensive experience in law enforcement, the Nevada Attorney General's policies did not align with the Governor's view of how state and local law enforcement should support federal partner agencies with immigration enforcement. The Governor's Office provided support to the NvSCA

in drafting alternate model immigration policies for the NvSCA's members to support federal agencies' immigration enforcement efforts. On March 20, 2025, after receiving unanimous board approval, NvSCA released its model immigration policies to its member agencies.

- h. The Governor's Office also collaborated with the Washoe County Sheriff's Office on a review of its policy regarding ICE interactions to ensure that policy complies with all applicable laws and supports collaboration with the federal government.
- i. On March 27, 2025, in response to the Nevada Attorney General's Model Immigration Policies, the Nevada Department of Corrections ("NDOC") issued a memorandum outlining its process for engagement with ICE: 1) NDOC screens all new offenders for citizenship status during intake; 2) NDOC shares information on foreign-born offenders with ICE; 3) NDOC continuously tracks ICE Holds in its offender management system; and 4) Prior to release, NDOC coordinates with ICE to arrange custody transfers, using local jails if ICE cannot take custody immediately. Offenders with ICE Holds are housed in medium or higher security facilities and NDOC updates ICE regularly on the state of such offenders. According to NDOC's Offender Management Division, since Governor Lombardo took office, NDOC has collaborated with ICE to arrange custody transfers. Prior to President Trump's second-administration, ICE collected less than 20% of NDOC released offenders upon release. Now, NDOC's Offender Management Division releases 100% of offenders on ICE detainers to federal authorities.
- j. On June 4, 2025, after discussions between Governor Lombardo and Sheriff McMahon of the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department ("LVMPD"), LVMPD rejoined ICE's 287(g) program.
- k. On June 5, 2025, Governor Lombardo vetoed AB 217, which would have barred Nevada public schools, including charter schools, from allowing federal immigration officers onto school property or sharing student information for immigration enforcement without a court-issued warrant or order, with violations

subject to discipline. Governor Lombardo's veto criticized AB 217 as overbroad, legally rigid, and a potential source of conflict between state and federal authority. For example, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act already protects the privacy of students' education records and personally identifiable information. The Governor noted the bill would effectively make school grounds permanent sanctuary zones. His veto prevented state law that could have hindered the enforcement of federal law.

- l. On July 28, 2025, The Governor hosted a meeting with the Nevada National Guard's ("NVNG") leadership to discuss a request from Department of Homeland Security ("DHS") and Department of Defense ("DoD") to provide administrative support under Title 32 in ICE detention facilities. The Governor preliminarily directed the NVNG to participate in the mission as requested, subject to typical Title 32 funding provision and command retention.

- m. On August 5, 2025, Governor Lombardo's Office issued the following statement regarding Nevada's ongoing commitment to enforcement of immigration laws:

Despite the [Nevada] Attorney General's attempts to implement sanctuary policies, Nevada is not a sanctuary state and will never be a sanctuary jurisdiction under Governor Lombardo. At Governor Lombardo's direction, Nevada has followed all federal laws and cooperated with federal immigration authorities, and the state will continue to do so.

- n. On August 6, 2025, the Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles ("DMV") issued a memorandum in response to the state's designation as a sanctuary jurisdiction, reiterating its full compliance with federal law.
- o. On August 8, 2025, Governor Lombardo approved a plan to use Federal Emergency Management Agency ("FEMA") funding to enhance the Washoe County Sheriff's Office ("WCSO") and LVMPD's ability to support federal operations in Nevada. Specifically, LVMPD plans to use \$895,889.60 of FEMA Urban Areas Security Initiative to enhance capabilities for intelligence collection and information sharing with federal partners, supporting border crisis response

and enforcement. Additionally, Nevada will use \$430,000 in FEMA State Homeland Security Grant funds to upgrade the Washoe County Jail with ICE holding cells and office space. The jail already works with ICE, so the co-location of ICE and WCSO personnel will enhance processing efficiency.

- p. On August 8, 2025, Governor Lombardo, staying true to his commitment to support President Trump's efforts to address our nation's illegal immigration and border security crisis, officially authorized the NVNG to assist with ICE operations in an administrative support capacity.
- q. On August 8 and 15, 2025, Governor Lombardo's staff met with the Department of Justice and—in both meetings—reiterated the Governor's commitment to collaborating with federal immigration authorities and that Nevada will never be a sanctuary jurisdiction under the Governor's leadership.

#### **4. PURPOSE AND COMMITMENT:**

The purpose of this MOU is to memorialize the Governor's efforts to ensure that the state's policies reflect consistency with federal immigration enforcement and reflect prospective commitments to that effort. To that end, this Agreement establishes a commitment between DOJ and Nevada in which the Parties agree to cooperate to the extent allowed by law to ensure federal law is followed in immigration enforcement and to develop further opportunities for Nevada's cooperations with federal law enforcement.

##### **Duties:**

- a. Nevada will commit to continuing to utilize Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funds to assist in federal operations, including but not limited to the designation of FEMA funds to support Nevada sheriffs who have demonstrated a commitment to facilitating operations by ICE.
- b. Nevada will continue to employ the Nevada National Guard to provide administrative support for federal law enforcement in immigration operations within the State of Nevada as it deems necessary in response to requests by federal officials. Any deployment shall comply with applicable laws and regulations and in consultation with relevant officials at the DHS.

- c. Nevada will take steps available in law to counter-balance any actions the Nevada Attorney General and Nevada Legislature may take to enact unlawful sanctuary policies, through steps that may include but are not limited to: (1) public pronouncements, (2) model proposed legislation and policies directed at correction of unlawful statutes that conflict with federal law and/or provide public benefits to illegal aliens, and (3) executive orders.
- d. DOJ will provide notice of further opportunities for Nevada to collaborate with the federal government on immigration enforcement including identification of laws and policies that impede federal law enforcement or provide support to illegal aliens, ongoing litigation related to sanctuary policy issues within the state, intergovernmental working groups addressing risks and strategies for combatting illegal immigration, and federal partnerships for law enforcement cooperation.

#### **5. TERMS AND CONDITIONS:**

- a. **Amendment and Modification** – The Parties may propose amendments or modifications to this MOU as needed. The proposed amendments or modifications shall be in writing and forwarded to the other Party for consideration. Amendments or modifications to this MOU shall become effective by mutual written consent of the Parties.
- b. **Effective Date, Period of Agreement, and Termination** – This MOU is effective upon the signature of all Parties and will continue until otherwise rescinded. This MOU may be terminated by either Party upon 30 days' written notice to the other Party.

#### **6. OTHER PROVISIONS:**

- a. **Severability** – Nothing in this MOU shall be construed to conflict with current law, regulation, or directive of DOJ or Nevada. If a term of this MOU is inconsistent with such authority, that term shall be invalid to the extent of the inconsistency. The remainder of that term and all other terms of this MOU shall remain in effect.



- b. **Rights and Benefits** – Nothing in this MOU is intended to diminish or otherwise affect the authority of any agency or state entity to carry out its statutory, regulatory, or other official functions, nor is it intended to create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable by law by any party against the United States, its agencies or offices, state agencies or officers carrying out programs authorized under federal law, or any other person.


**7. POINTS OF CONTACT (POC):**

DOJ: Stanley Woodward, Office of the Attorney General  
Natalie Christmas, Office of the Associate Attorney General

Nevada: Ryan Cherry, Chief of Staff, Office of Governor Joe Lombardo

**8. APPROVED BY:**

**For U.S. Department of Justice**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Stanley Woodward  
Counselor to the Attorney General  
U.S. Department of Justice

Date: 09/24/25

**For the Nevada Governor's Office**

  
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Ryan Cherry  
Chief of Staff  
Office of the Nevada Governor

Date: 9/17/2025