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ATTORNEY GENERAL MADIGAN DEFENDS STATES' ABILITY TO PROTECT PUBLIC SAFETY IN IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES***Amicus Brief Opposes Federal Attempt to Stop California's 'Sanctuary' Policies***

Chicago — Attorney General Lisa Madigan, along with eight other attorneys general, today filed an amicus brief defending a state's right to set its own public safety policies against the federal government. The amicus brief, filed in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California, opposes a federal attempt to prohibit laws that govern how California law enforcement agencies – including school police and security departments – cooperate with federal authorities on civil immigration enforcement.

Madigan and the states' [brief](#) argues that the federal attempt to upend state laws like California's is an intrusion on powers rightly reserved to the states to determine and pursue their own public safety needs.

"Building trust with all communities is essential to effective policing," Madigan said. "The federal administration's proposal to interfere in how local communities are policed impedes on a long-recognized principle that states establish their own public safety policies."

The brief argues that the federal government's position impermissibly limits the states' sovereignty:

"The Amici States are concerned by the federal government's lawsuit against the State of California, which is based on an interpretation of federal immigration law that would impermissibly intrude on the sovereign authority of states to regulate law enforcement, enhance public safety, and allocate their limited resources. This suit is only the latest in a series of threats by the federal government against states and political subdivisions that do not wish to devote state and local resources to federal civil immigration enforcement. By seeking to make an example of the State of California, the federal government threatens the sovereign authority of all of the Amici States to adopt polices they deem important to the safety and well-being of their communities."

Last September, Madigan issued guidance to state, county and local law enforcement agencies to increase awareness and provide an overview of recent state laws and federal actions that impact the authority of Illinois law enforcement to enforce federal immigration laws.

Joining Madigan in filing the brief are the attorneys general of Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Hawaii, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oregon and Washington.

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