

NEWS AND POLITICS

Top California Dem: 'Half of My Family' Could be Deported by Trump Order



BY ROD KACKLEY FEBRUARY 14, 2017

261 COMMENTS



State Sen. President Pro Tem Kevin de León discusses his measure SB 54 after the Senate Public Safety Committee passed the bill Jan. 31, 2017, in Sacramento. (AP Photo/Rich Pedroncelli)

For California Sen. Kevin de León (D), the battle against President Trump's immigration order isn't business – it is personal.

De León, the current Senate president pro tempore, told the state Senate Public Safety Committee that half of his family could be rounded up by Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents and deported because they are living in the U.S. illegally, and criminally.

"I can tell you, half of my family would be eligible for deportation under the executive order, because they got a false Social Security card, they got a false identification, they got a false driver's license prior to us passing AB 60, they got a false green card," De León said.

He rationalized family members carrying false ID by explaining "that's what you need to survive, to work."

As PJM reported, de León has sponsored legislation that would establish California as a "sanctuary state," or as he put it, a "Wall of Justice."

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"Let me be clear, we want to work together to get violent felons out of our neighborhoods," de León said. "However, we remain deeply concerned with the new administration's recent decision to prioritize nearly every undocumented resident in California for deportation, and their apparent inability to accurately inform the public of their operations in a timely manner."

Trump said in a pre-Super Bowl interview with Fox News that California was out of control and called the de León proposal to make California a sanctuary ~~city~~ "ridiculous," saying sanctuary cities would "breed crime." ^{STATE}

He threatened to "defund" California if de León's proposal became law.

"We will certainly not stand for sanctuary even cities, let alone states," Trump said.

De León said Trump was trying to "weaponize" federal funding but added that the threat of the White House pulling federal funding might work with the other 49 states, but it didn't scare California.

"Far from being out of control, California is creating jobs faster than any other state and immigrants are key to our economic prosperity," de León said in a written statement. "We are an engine for the country's innovation and job growth and our state annually pays more in federal taxes than it gets back. Our economy is the sixth largest in the world and 13 percent of the country's GDP."

Other Democrats said it was Trump that was out of control. *Orange County Register* columnist Susan Shelley agreed.

And she concurred with de León's assertion that California could stand up to the Trump administration.

However, Shelley also warned that could leave de León — who is seen as a leading candidate for California's next lieutenant governor, governor or even U.S. senator — with a new problem.

"Then California officials can explain to voters that they will continue to defy federal law — on principle — even if it means tax increases every year to pay for schools, roads and healthcare," Shelley wrote. "We'll see how that goes."

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