

1 Harry Sandick (*pro hac vice* pending)  
Email: [hsandick@pbwt.com](mailto:hsandick@pbwt.com)  
2 Jamison Davies (*pro hac vice* pending)  
Email: [jmdavies@pbwt.com](mailto:jmdavies@pbwt.com)  
3 Michael D. Schwartz (*pro hac vice* pending)  
4 Email: [mschwartz@pbwt.com](mailto:mschwartz@pbwt.com)  
PATTERSON BELKNAP WEBB & TYLER LLP  
5 1133 Avenue of the Americas  
6 New York, New York 10036  
Telephone: (212) 336-2000  
7

8 Kevin A. Calia (SB# 227406)  
Email: [kevin@calialaw.com](mailto:kevin@calialaw.com)  
9 LAW OFFICE OF KEVIN A. CALIA  
10 1478 Stone Point Drive, Suite 100  
Roseville, CA 95661  
11 Telephone: (916) 547-4175

12 *Attorneys for Amici Curiae*

13  
14 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
15 **EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

16 **THE UNITED STATES OF**  
17 **AMERICA**

18 Plaintiff,

19 v.

20 **STATE OF CALIFORNIA, et al.,**

21 Defendants.  
22  
23

Case No. 2:18-cv-00490-JAM-KJN

**BRIEF OF *AMICI CURIAE***  
**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW,**  
**CONSTITUTIONAL LAW, CRIMINAL**  
**LAW AND IMMIGRATION LAW**  
**SCHOLARS IN OPPOSITION TO**  
**PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR A**  
**PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION**

NO HEARING NOTICED

Complaint Filed: March 6, 2018

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1                    **PRELIMINARY STATEMENT AND SUMMARY OF ARGUMENT**

2                    The United States’ challenge to the State of California’s decision to disentangle its  
3 local criminal justice system from federal immigration enforcement presents a question  
4 of statutory construction that is easily answered at this stage of the litigation: Federal  
5 statutory law does not preempt Senate Bill 54 on its face. *Amici*, who are listed in  
6 Appendix A, are 83 scholars of administrative law, constitutional law, criminal law, and  
7 immigration law. They have an interest in the proper resolution of conflicts between  
8 federal immigration law and state law based upon application of fundamental principles  
9 of statutory construction and constitutional law. *Amici* submit this brief to address these  
10 fundamental principles and to explain their constitutional and historical foundations.

11                    California’s decision to disentangle its law enforcement resources from federal  
12 immigration enforcement does not threaten federal supremacy in matters of immigration  
13 policy. To the contrary, the Administration’s efforts to entangle local criminal justice  
14 systems with immigration enforcement are historically anomalous and exceed its  
15 statutory and constitutional authority. For most of the Nation’s history, state and local  
16 law enforcement played little to no role in the enforcement of federal immigration laws.  
17 In the modern era, Congress has authorized state and local officials to participate in  
18 enforcing immigration law in limited ways. But Congress has never *required* state and  
19 local governments to do so. Instead, where Congress has created a role for state and local  
20 jurisdictions to participate, Congress has consistently taken care to offer them a *choice*.  
21 In enacting SB 54, California has simply chosen to exercise that choice in the negative.

22                    Nothing in federal statutory law preempts California’s choice. The United States  
23 claims that because parts of SB 54 withhold assistance, they stand as an obstacle to  
24 federal immigration enforcement under the detention and removal provisions of the  
25 Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), 8 U.S.C. §§ 1226 & 1231. *See* U.S. PI Mot. 23-  
26 27, 29-31 (discussing Cal. Gov’t Code §§ 7284.6(a)(1)(C)-(D), (a)(4)). And the United  
27 States claims that parts of SB 54 directly conflict with 8 U.S.C. § 1373(a), even though  
28

1 SB 54 contains a savings clause that expressly authorizes state and local officials to share  
2 information with federal immigration officials to the extent that Section 1373 limits state  
3 law. *See id.* at 27-28 (discussing Cal. Gov’t Code §§ 7284.6(a)(1)(C) & (D)); *see also*  
4 Cal. Gov’t Code § 7284.6(e) (savings clause). SB 54 need not, and indeed should not, be  
5 construed to stand as an obstacle to implementation of the INA or to conflict directly with  
6 8 U.S.C. § 1373. The detention and removal provisions of the INA impose obligations  
7 on *federal* officials; they were not intended to disturb state and local authority over the  
8 allocation of state and local law enforcement resources. And Section 1373 and SB 54  
9 would conflict on their face only if they are read without regard to SB 54’s savings  
10 clause, the plain meaning of Section 1373’s terms, and the serious constitutional  
11 questions that the United States’ construction of Section 1373 would create, including  
12 those under the Supreme Court’s recent decision in *Murphy v. NCAA*, No. 16-476, 2018  
13 U.S. LEXIS 2805 (U.S. May 14, 2018), which reaffirmed the ban on federal  
14 commandeering of states.  
15

16 At this stage, this Court should not construe SB 54 and federal law to conflict.  
17 Rather, where, as here, “[t]here is a basic uncertainty about what the law means and how  
18 it will be enforced,” the Supreme Court has instructed that a court “should assume that  
19 ‘the historic police powers of the States’ are not superseded.” *Arizona v. United States*,  
20 567 U.S. 387, 400, 415 (2012) (internal citation omitted).

## 21 ARGUMENT

### 22 I. THE ADMINISTRATION’S EFFORTS TO FORCE THE 23 ENTANGLEMENT OF LOCAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEMS 24 WITH IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT ARE HISTORICALLY 25 ANOMALOUS AND CONSTITUTIONALLY SUSPECT

26 The United States argues that federal immigration law preempts SB 54  
27 based on its view of the INA, which, it argues, “codifies the Executive Branch’s  
28 constitutional and inherent authority” to arrest and detain undocumented  
individuals. U.S. PI Mot. 23. To the contrary, Congress has never granted the



1 Executive Branch such sweeping power to preempt state and local law. More  
2 specifically, Congress has never bestowed upon federal authorities an unchecked  
3 right to entangle local criminal justice systems with the Executive Branch’s  
4 immigration enforcement in the ways that the United States now demands.  
5 Congress’s approach through the INA has been to invite specific, limited  
6 cooperation from state and local governments, not to require it.<sup>1</sup>

7         Across most of United States history, at least after the enactment of the first  
8 federal immigration statutes in the late nineteenth century, there has been a sharp  
9 demarcation of spheres of responsibility for state and local law enforcement  
10 agencies, on the one hand, and federal immigration enforcement authorities, on the  
11 other. State and local law enforcement bore much of the responsibility for the  
12 administration of criminal laws. Indeed, “[t]he promotion of safety of persons and  
13 property [has been] unquestionably at the core of [the states’] police power”  
14 reserved by the Tenth Amendment. *Kelley v. Johnson*, 425 U.S. 238, 247 (1976).  
15 Enforcement of immigration laws was reserved for federal officials. *See* Juliet P.  
16 Stumpf, *States of Confusion: The Rise of State and Local Power over Immigration*,  
17 86 N.C. L. Rev. 1557, 1571–78 (2008) (describing court decisions distinguishing  
18 civil immigration enforcement from criminal enforcement and allocating the  
19 former exclusively to the federal government while recognizing the states’ primary  
20 role in the latter); *Arizona*, at 409 (noting that immigration enforcement decisions  
21 “touch on foreign relations and must be made with one voice”).  
22  
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25 <sup>1</sup> *See* Anil Kalhan, *Immigration Policing and Federalism Through the Lens of*  
26 *Technology, Surveillance, and Privacy*, 74 Ohio St. L.J. 1105, 1120–21 (2013)  
27 (observing that notwithstanding federal efforts to enlist state and local officials in  
28 immigration enforcement, “immigration federalism . . . presumes some level of self-  
conscious, calibrated, and negotiated choice by states and localities concerning the extent  
to enmesh their law enforcement agencies with immigration policing activities.”).

1 In the 1980s and 1990s, Congress enacted several anti-drug statutes that  
2 contained immigration-related provisions. For example, as part of the Anti-Drug  
3 Abuse Act of 1986, Congress enacted the Narcotics Traffickers Deportation Act,  
4 which expanded the categories of individuals who would be deported for  
5 controlled substance convictions. *See* Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1986, Pub. L. No.  
6 99-570, § 1751, 100 Stat. 3207 (Oct. 27, 1986). The Anti-Drug Abuse Act of  
7 1988 introduced the term “aggravated felony” and made the commission of such  
8 crimes grounds for deportation. *See* Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988, Pub. L. No.  
9 100-690, §§ 7342-43, 102 Stat. 4469-70 (Nov. 18, 1988). Around this time,  
10 Congress also introduced the first statutory mention of an immigration detainer.  
11 *See* Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1986, *supra*, § 1751(d) (creating 8 U.S.C. §  
12 1357(d)).<sup>2</sup>

13  
14 These changes to federal law, however, were directed at federal authorities.  
15 Congress did not attempt to require states and local governments to assist the  
16 Executive Branch with carrying out its duties. In 1996, Congress added Section  
17 287(g) to the INA, allowing the Attorney General to enter into written agreements  
18 with State or localities that *chose* to allow their officers to carry out the “function  
19 of an immigration officer.” 8 U.S.C. § 1357(g). In addition, Congress authorized  
20 states and localities to permit their officers to make civil immigration arrests in  
21 certain narrow instances, *see* 8 U.S.C. § 1252c; 8 U.S.C. § 1103(a)(10), and to  
22

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23 <sup>2</sup> Commentators have observed that policymakers are still struggling to  
24 disentangle immigration law from anti-crime legislation, an entanglement that  
25 reflected a myth of immigrant criminality “reimagin[ing] noncitizens as criminal  
26 deviants and security risks.” César Cuauhtémoc García Hernández, *Creating*  
27 *Crimmigration*, 2013 BYU L. Rev. 1457, 1458 (2013); Jennifer M. Chacón,  
28 *Unsecured Borders: Immigration Restrictions, Crime Control and National*  
*Security*, 39 Conn. L. Rev. 1827 (2007); Yolanda Vázquez, *Constructing*  
*Crimmigration: Latino Subordination in a “Post-Racial” World*, 76 Ohio St. L.J.  
599, 637–42 (2015).

1 contract with the Attorney General to house federal immigration detainees if they  
2 desired, *see* 8 U.S.C. § 1103(a)(11)(A). Throughout, Congress never *required*  
3 states and localities to assist the federal government.

4 Nevertheless, after 9/11, the federal Executive Branch began to see state  
5 and local law enforcement agencies as a potential “force multiplier” for the  
6 enforcement of federal immigration law. The push to involve local criminal  
7 agencies in immigration enforcement became more insistent and the Executive  
8 Branch began to merge criminal justice concerns with immigration concerns in an  
9 attempt to enlist state and local officers in the federal immigration fight.<sup>3</sup> In 2002,  
10 for example, the Office of Legal Counsel reversed its previous view that state and  
11 local officers did not have “inherent authority” to enforce civil immigration laws,  
12 paving the way for more states and localities to lend their officers to the federal  
13 effort.<sup>4</sup> However, the 2002 opinion was later discredited by the Supreme Court’s  
14

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16 <sup>3</sup> *See* Michael J. Wishnie, *State and Local Police Enforcement of*  
17 *Immigration Laws*, 6 U. Pa. J. Const. L. 1084, 1084-88 (2004) (describing the  
18 “federal effort to enlist, or even conscript, state and local police in routine  
19 immigration enforcement”); *see also* S. Karthick Ramakrishnan & Pratheepan  
20 Gulasekaram, *The Importance of the Political in Immigration Federalism*, 44 Ariz.  
St. L.J. 1431, 1475 (2012) (explaining that linking of immigration and crime  
suggested that “states and cities could and should be part of the solution”).

21 <sup>4</sup> Memorandum for the Att’y Gen., from Jay S. Bybee, Assistant Attorney  
22 General, Office of Legal Counsel, *Non-preemption of the authority of state and*  
23 *local law enforcement officials to arrest aliens for immigration violations* 8 (April  
24 3, 2002); *cf.* Memorandum for Joseph R. Davis, Ass’t Director, FBI, from Douglas  
25 W. Kmiec, Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legal Counsel, *Re: Handling of*  
26 *INS Warrants of Deportation in Relation to NCIC Wanted Person File* (Apr. 11,  
27 1989), [https://www.scribd.com/document/24732201/DOJ-Memo-on-INS-](https://www.scribd.com/document/24732201/DOJ-Memo-on-INS-Warrants-of-Deportation-in-Relation-to-NCIC-Wanted-Person-File-4-11-89)  
28 [Warrants-of-Deportation-in-Relation-to-NCIC-Wanted-Person-File-4-11-89;](https://www.scribd.com/document/24732201/DOJ-Memo-on-INS-Warrants-of-Deportation-in-Relation-to-NCIC-Wanted-Person-File-4-11-89)  
Memorandum for Assistant U.S. Attorney, S.D. Cal., from Teresa Wynn  
Roseborough, Dep. Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legal Counsel, *Re:*  
*Assistance by State and Local Police in Apprehending Illegal Aliens* (Feb. 5,  
1996), <https://www.justice.gov/file/20111/download>.

1 decision in *Arizona*. In that case, the Supreme Court pointed to only three “limited  
2 circumstances” in which Congress had allowed State and local officers to make  
3 civil immigration arrests. *Arizona*, 567 U.S. at 408–09.<sup>5</sup> It held that Arizona’s  
4 attempt (premised on the “inherent authority” argument) to authorize state and  
5 local participation beyond the “system Congress created” violated the Supremacy  
6 Clause. *Id.* at 408–10 (citations omitted).

7 The Executive Branch has also overreached in its attempt to leverage  
8 immigration detainers to enlist the participation of local jail officials in federal  
9 immigration enforcement. Before April 1997, the detainer form in use by federal  
10 immigration officials did not request detention at all. *See Vargas v. Swan*, 854  
11 F.2d 1028, 1035 (7th Cir. 1988) (appendix showing Form I-247 in use from March  
12 1983 to April 1997). In 1997, the Executive Branch changed the form, suddenly  
13 insisting that local jails receiving detainers were *required* to detain persons  
14 otherwise entitled to release. Form I-247 (Apr. 1997), *available at*  
15 <http://bit.ly/2y7qVyS>. The federal courts, however, have since held that Congress  
16 never authorized mandatory detainer compliance. *Galarza v. Szalczyk*, 745 F.3d  
17 634, 641–45 (3d Cir. 2014).<sup>6,7</sup>

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21 <sup>5</sup> The *Arizona* Court noted a fourth example of Congress authorizing State  
22 and local officers to perform immigration functions, which pertained to  
23 enforcement of *criminal* anti-harboring laws. 8 U.S.C. § 1324(c).

24 <sup>6</sup> The federal government’s use of immigration detainers has resulted in  
25 widespread Fourth Amendment violations and violations of the INA. *See, e.g.,*  
26 *Morales v. Chadbourne*, 996 F. Supp. 2d 19, 29 (D. R.I. 2014), *aff’d* 793 F.3d 208  
27 (1st Cir. 2015) (“One needs to look no further than the detainer itself . . . The fact  
28 that an investigation had been initiated is not enough to establish probable cause  
because the Fourth Amendment does not permit seizures for mere  
investigations.”); *Moreno v. Napolitano*, 213 F. Supp. 3d 999 (N.D. Ill. 2016)  
(holding federal detainer practices routinely exceeded immigration officers’ arrest  
authority under the INA).

1 While the participation of state and local law enforcement officials in  
2 federal immigration efforts, including through the exchange of information and  
3 transfers from local jails, is no longer anomalous, states like California retain the  
4 authority to consider the consequences of entanglement with federal immigration  
5 enforcement and determine that it is in the best interests of their residents to opt  
6 out of participating in federal deportation efforts. The United States' bid to force  
7 California to participate in the current Administration's immigration enforcement  
8 plans should fare no better than previous instances of executive branch overreach.  
9 Congress has respected the distinct spheres of responsibility of the Federal  
10 government and the State and local governments. In all of its legislative  
11 enactments concerning civil immigration arrests and detention, Congress has  
12 refrained from coopting State and local governments. This Court should hold  
13 federal authorities to the same principle in this case.  
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20 <sup>7</sup> A third example of executive branch overreach has been the Trump  
21 Administration's attempts to attach immigration-related funding conditions to law  
22 enforcement grants. *See, e.g., Cnty. of Santa Clara v. Trump*, 250 F. Supp. 3d 497  
23 (N.D. Cal. 2017), *reconsideration denied*, 267 F. Supp. 3d 1201 (N.D. Cal.  
24 2017), *appeal dismissed as moot sub nom. City & Cty. of San Francisco v. Trump*,  
25 17-16886, 2018 U.S. App. LEXIS 2391401847 (9th Cir. Jan. 4, 2018) (striking  
26 down executive order threatening defunding on grounds of, *inter alia*, separation  
27 of powers, Spending Clause violation, and violation of the Tenth Amendment);  
28 *City of Chicago v. Sessions*, — F.3d —, 2018 U.S. App. LEXIS 9862 (7th Cir.  
April 19, 2018) (affirming, on separation of powers grounds, district court's grant  
of nationwide injunction as to funding conditions imposed by Attorney General);  
*City of Philadelphia v. Sessions*, 280 F. Supp. 3d 579 (E.D. Pa. 2017) (issuing  
preliminary injunction as to funding conditions imposed by Attorney General on  
grounds, *inter alia*, that such conditions were arbitrary and capricious).

1 **II. THE STATE’S DECISION TO DISENTANGLE ITS LOCAL**  
2 **CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM FROM FEDERAL IMMIGRATION**  
3 **ENFORCEMENT IS NOT PREEMPTED BY FEDERAL LAW**

4 In *Arizona*, the Supreme Court explained that federal courts should not  
5 aggressively wield preemption as a scythe to facially preempt state law. *See* 567 U.S. at  
6 400, 415. While state law cannot stand as an obstacle to the implementation of federal  
7 statutory law, “[i]n pre-emption analysis, courts should assume that ‘the historic police  
8 powers of the States’ are not superseded ‘unless that was the clear and manifest purpose  
9 of Congress.’” *Id.* at 400 (quoting *Rice v. Santa Fe Elevator Corp.*, 331 U.S. 218, 230  
10 (1947)). This presumption against preemption has particular force where the federal  
11 government has brought a facial challenge to state law and “[t]here is a basic uncertainty  
12 about what the law means and how it will be enforced.” *Id.* at 415. Construing 8 U.S.C.  
13 § 1373 and the INA to preempt SB 54 on its face would supersede the historic police  
14 powers of the states and unnecessarily raise serious constitutional questions under the  
15 Tenth Amendment. To avoid these constitutional problems, this Court should decline the  
16 United States’ invitation to enter a preliminary injunction against SB 54.

17  
18 **A. Federal Law Should Not be Construed to Facially Preempt State Law**  
19 **Where Doing So Would Supersede the Historic Police Powers of the**  
20 **States and Raise Serious Constitutional Questions**

21 In an era where Congress sets the metes and bounds of federal regulation,  
22 statutory interpretation has become a safeguard of federalism. When construing federal  
23 statutes, federal courts presume that “Congress legislates against the backdrop of certain  
24 unexpressed presumptions,” including “those grounded in the relationship between the  
25 Federal Government and the States.” *Bond v. United States*, 134 S. Ct. 2077, 2088  
26 (2014) (internal quotation marks omitted). Construing federal statutes in light of these  
27 presumptions is crucial to preserving federalism “inasmuch as [the Supreme] Court . . .  
28 has left primarily to the political process the protection of the States against intrusive

1 exercises of Congress' Commerce Clause powers." *Gregory v. Ashcroft*, 501 U.S. 452,  
2 464 (1991).<sup>8</sup>

3 Several background presumptions regarding the federal system have long  
4 informed statutory construction. The Tenth Amendment provides that "[t]he powers not  
5 delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are  
6 reserved to the States respectively, or to the people." U.S. Const. amend. X. This  
7 amendment reserves police powers to the states, including over matters of local criminal  
8 justice. *See, e.g., United States v. Morrison*, 529 U.S. 598, 618 (2000). It also reflects a  
9 structural principle that prohibits the federal government from commandeering state  
10 legislatures and executive officials or coercing them to implement federal law. *See NFIB*  
11 *v. Sebelius*, 567 U.S. 519, 576 (2012); *Printz v. United States*, 521 U.S. 898, 933 (1997);  
12 *New York v. United States*, 505 U.S. 144, 175-76 (1992). When construing statutes,  
13 federal courts seek to preserve the states' reserved authority. As the Supreme Court has  
14 put it, "Congress does not cavalierly pre-empt" state law. *Medtronic, Inc. v. Lohr*, 518  
15 U.S. 470, 485 (1996). Instead, out of respect for "the States [as] independent sovereigns  
16 in our federal system," courts should presume that federal law does not preempt state law  
17 "unless that was the clear and manifest purpose of Congress." *Id.* (quoting *Rice*, 331  
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21 <sup>8</sup> Today, Congress plays the primary role in deciding whether federal law  
22 displaces state law. *See North Dakota v. United States*, 495 U.S. 423, 435 (1990) ("[T]he  
23 Court has . . . adopted a functional approach to claims of governmental immunity,  
24 accommodating the full range of each sovereign's legislative authority and *respectful of*  
25 *the primary role of Congress* in resolving conflicts between National and State  
26 Government.") (emphasis added). For this reason, doctrines of implied  
27 intergovernmental immunity necessarily play a lesser role where federal statutory law  
28 governs conflicts between the states and the federal government. Gillian E. Metzger,  
*Federalism and Federal Agency Reform*, 111 Colum. L. Rev. 1, 57 (2011) ("Much of the  
resultant doctrine of federal intergovernmental immunity has been cut back over time,  
with such concerns now addressed largely under the aegis of preemption."). Questions of  
federal-state conflict are answered today primarily by reference to Congress's intent, not  
by judicial elaboration of the implications of the Supremacy Clause. *Id.*

1 U.S. at 230); *see also Arizona*, 567 U.S. at 400. And rather than adopt a construction that  
2 would raise serious constitutional concerns, federal courts will seek to avoid a conflict  
3 between federal and state law—particularly where, as here, the United States challenges  
4 state law as preempted on its face. *See Arizona*, 567 U.S. at 415; *cf. Murphy*, 2018 U.S.  
5 LEXIS 2805, at \*23–24 (explaining that canon of constitutional avoidance does not apply  
6 where any plausible interpretation would still violate Tenth Amendment commandeering  
7 ban).

8 **B. Neither 8 U.S.C. § 1373 Nor the INA Should Be Construed To Preempt**  
9 **SB 54**

10 The United States seeks to enjoin several provisions of SB 54, specifically those  
11 that prohibit state and local officers from (i) providing notification of inmate release dates  
12 in some instances, *see* Cal. Gov’t Code. § 7284.6(a)(1)(C); (ii) releasing individual’s  
13 “personal information,” including their home and work address, *see id.* §  
14 7284.6(a)(1)(D); and (iii) “transferring” individuals to federal immigration officials in  
15 some instances, *id.* § 7284(a)(4). According to the United States, Congress preempted  
16 these provisions on their face through 8 U.S.C. § 1373 and 8 U.S.C. §§ 1226 & 1231.  
17 But Section 1373 plainly does not *require* states and localities to assist in immigration  
18 enforcement and Sections 1226 and 1231 are detention and removal statutes that impose  
19 obligations exclusively on *federal* officials. Neither Section 1373 nor the detention and  
20 removal provisions of the INA should be construed to preempt SB 54. Doing so would  
21 supersede the historic police powers of the states and raise serious constitutional  
22 questions under the Tenth Amendment.

23 The United States places great weight upon 8 U.S.C. § 1373, arguing that it  
24 directly conflicts with SB 54. U.S. PI Mot. 27. Section 1373 provides,  
25 “[n]otwithstanding any other provision of Federal, State, or local law, a Federal, State, or  
26 local government entity or official may not prohibit, or in any way restrict, any  
27 government entity or official from sending to, or receiving from [federal immigration  
28



1 authorities] information regarding the citizenship or immigration status, lawful or  
2 unlawful, of any individual.” 8 U.S.C. § 1373(a). Adopting a breathtakingly broad  
3 interpretation of this statute, one that would effectively prevent states and localities from  
4 declining to share any and all information the federal Executive deems relevant to any  
5 “immigration status issue[,],” the United States argues that Section 1373 preempts SB 54  
6 on its face. *See* U.S. PI Mot. 28-29. This argument fails for two reasons.

7 First, construing 8 U.S.C. § 1373 as the United States now does is simply  
8 implausible. Its statutory construction should be rejected on that basis alone. *See*  
9 *Arizona*, 567 U.S. at 400 (explaining that courts should presume state law is not  
10 preempted on its face when it is plausible to construe statutory law to avoid conflict).  
11 SB 54’s savings clause expressly authorizes state and local officials to share information  
12 with federal immigration officials where such authorization is actually required by 8  
13 U.S.C. § 1373. *See* Cal. Gov’t Code § 7284(e). Even without the savings clause,  
14 moreover, SB 54 would not stand as an obstacle to implementation of Section 1373.  
15 Contrary to the United States’ current construction, Section 1373 plainly reaches no  
16 further than to preempt state or local prohibitions on the sharing of “information  
17 regarding . . . **citizenship or immigration status.**” (emphasis added). As a federal  
18 district court has held, there is “no plausible reading” of this statute that would  
19 “encompass[] the release date of an undocumented inmate,” much less an individual’s  
20 home or work address or anything else the federal Executive deems possibly relevant to  
21 immigration status. *Steinle v. City & Cnty. of San Francisco*, 230 F. Supp. 3d 994, 1015  
22 (N.D. Cal. 2017). Section 1373 cannot plausibly be read to preempt facially SB 54’s  
23 prohibition on the sharing of an individual’s “personal information,” including a home or  
24 work address, Cal. Gov’t § 7284(a)(1)(D); nor can it be read to preempt the other  
25 challenged provisions of SB 54 on their face.  
26

27 Reading Section 1373 and SB 54 together in this way avoids a statutory  
28 construction that would supersede California’s careful exercise of its core police powers.

1 California’s legislature determined that SB 54 would improve public safety by promoting  
2 cooperation between police and local communities. *See* Cal. Opp. 2. This determination  
3 is not only reasonable,<sup>9</sup> it is also well within the core of the State’s prerogative over  
4 matters of local criminal justice. As the Supreme Court has put it, there is “no better  
5 example of the police power, which the Founders denied the National Government and  
6 reposed in the States, than the suppression of violent crime and the vindication of its  
7 victims.” *Morrison*, 529 U.S. at 618.

8  
9 Second, construing Section 1373 to preempt SB 54 on its face would raise serious  
10 constitutional questions under structural principles reflected in the Tenth Amendment.  
11 As the Supreme Court recently reaffirmed in *Murphy*, the Constitution “withhold[s] from  
12 Congress the power to issue orders directly to the States.” 2018 U.S. LEXIS 2805, at  
13 \*24. The United States’ interpretation of Section 1373 would deny states and localities  
14 the ability to supervise their officials and could cripple their ability to “regulate in  
15 accordance with the views of the local electorate,” in violation of the constitutional ban  
16 on commandeering. *See New York*, 505 U.S. at 169. In particular, this interpretation of  
17 Section 1373 would deny states and localities the prerogative to decline “to provide  
18 information that belongs to the State and is available to [state and local officials] only in  
19 their official capacity.”<sup>10</sup> *Printz*, 521 U.S. at 932 n.17 (striking down federal statute with  
20 information-sharing provision); *cf. Murphy*, 2018 U.S. LEXIS 2805, at \*30 (holding that  
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23 <sup>9</sup> *See, e.g.*, Tom Wong, *The Effects of Sanctuary Policies on Crime and the*  
24 *Economy*, Nat’l Immigration Law Ctr. (Jan. 26, 2017) (finding that “[c]rime is . . .  
25 significantly lower in sanctuary counties compared to nonsanctuary counties”), *available*  
26 *at* <https://perma.cc/B57Q-XGTE>.

27 <sup>10</sup> *See* Robert A. Mikos, *Can the States Keep Secrets from the Federal*  
28 *Government?*, 161 U. Pa. L. Rev. 103, 159-64 (2012) (arguing that information-sharing  
statutes such as Section 1373 violate anti-commandeering principle of *Printz*); *see also*  
Kalhan, *supra* note 1, 74 Ohio St. L.J. at 1159-62 (arguing the positive benefits of  
“information federalism”).

1 Congress can no more “prohibit[] a State from enacting new laws” than it can “compel a  
2 State to enact legislation,” because the “basic principle—that Congress cannot issue  
3 direct orders to state legislatures—applies in either event”).<sup>11</sup> See Cal. Gov’t Code §  
4 7284(a)(1)(C)-(D); *id.* § 7284(e). The United States’ demands for additional information  
5 sharing could easily lead to the diversion of the resources of several full-time employees  
6 in a large police force or corrections agency. Denying states the authority to adopt  
7 reasonable and targeted policies to disentangle local criminal justice systems from federal  
8 immigration enforcement in this way would diminish political accountability and would  
9 shift regulatory burdens to the states. This forced entanglement of local criminal justice  
10 and federal immigration enforcement would, in turn, inflict the very harms that the  
11 Supreme Court’s anti-commandeering prohibition is designed to prevent. See *Murphy*,  
12 2018 U.S. LEXIS 2805, at \*28–29 (explaining potential harms that anti-commandeering  
13 rule addresses).

14  
15 The United States’ fallback argument is even further off the mark. It argues that  
16 8 U.S.C. §§ 1226 and 1231 preempt SB 54 on their face on the theory that those  
17 provisions impliedly require states and localities to assist in federal immigration  
18 enforcement after an individual is released from local criminal custody. U.S. PI Mot. 25-  
19 27, 29-31. But Sections 1226 and 1231 plainly do no such thing. Congress enacted  
20 Section 1226(c)(1) in 1996, directing the Attorney General to take certain noncitizens  
21 into custody, in response to what it perceived to be a “wholesale failure *by the INS*” to  
22 remove deportable noncitizens who had been convicted of criminal offenses by “fail[ing]  
23 to detain those [noncitizens] during their deportation proceedings.” *Demore v. Kim*, 538  
24

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26 \_\_\_\_\_  
27 <sup>11</sup> Because California has sought to protect only information that has not been  
28 shared with the public, the State has not adopted a “policy of no-voluntary-cooperation  
that does not protect confidential information generally.” *City of New York v. United  
States*, 179 F.3d 29, 37 (2d Cir. 1999) (declining to strike down Section 1373 on its face  
but explaining that City’s Tenth Amendment concerns were “not insubstantial”).

1 U.S. 510, 518-21 (2003) (emphasis added). Congress directed that noncitizens taken into  
2 federal custody and placed in removal proceedings upon release from criminal custody  
3 are to be mandatorily detained, whereas those apprehended after returning to the  
4 community for some time or under other circumstances are to be detained at the  
5 discretion of immigration authorities. *Compare* 8 U.S.C. § 1226(c) *with id.* § 1226(a).  
6 Section 1231(a)(1)(B), which the United States also cites, requires federal immigration  
7 authorities to act quickly to remove a noncitizen at the conclusion of removal  
8 proceedings. If an order of removal becomes final while a noncitizen is still confined in  
9 criminal custody, then the removal period does not begin to run until after the noncitizen  
10 is released. *Id.* § 1231(a)(1)(B)(i)-(iii). The upshot is that sections 1226 and 1231  
11 impose obligations on *federal* officials, but were not intended to disturb the prerogative  
12 of state and local officials to decide whether they would voluntarily cooperate with  
13 requests from federal immigration authorities. Indeed, if they were intended to command  
14 the participation of states and localities, they would run afoul of the Tenth Amendment.  
15 *See Murphy*, 2018 U.S. LEXIS 2805, at \*28–29; *Galarza*, 745 F. 3d at 644–45 (relying  
16 on *New York* and *Printz* to find that construing “a federal detainer filed with a state or  
17 local [law enforcement agency] [as] a command . . . would violate the anti-  
18 commandeering doctrine of the Tenth Amendment.”); *Id.* at 641 (noting that Congress  
19 did not “authorize federal officials to command state or local officials to detain suspected  
20 aliens subject to removal”).

21  
22 While the United States suggests that *Arizona* requires the Court to find a conflict  
23 between SB 54 and federal law, the Supreme Court’s holding in that case requires just the  
24 opposite. *Arizona* concerned a state’s attempt to entangle its criminal enforcement  
25 system with the enforcement of federal immigration law. *See* 567 U.S. at 406-10. Here,  
26 by contrast, California has decided with SB 54 to disentangle its local criminal justice  
27 apparatus from federal immigration enforcement. The question is whether federal  
28 statutory law preempts that decision on its face. And, as *Arizona* instructs, a federal court

1 answering that question must presume that state law is not preempted unless Congress  
2 has clearly indicated otherwise. *See id.* at 400. Because Congress has not clearly  
3 required state and local officials to accede to the Trump Administration’s demands,  
4 which themselves raise serious constitutional questions under the Tenth Amendment, this  
5 Court should conclude that SB 54 is not preempted.

6 **CONCLUSION**

7 For these reasons, *amici* urge the Court to deny the United States’ motion for a  
8 preliminary injunction because it has not shown a likelihood of success on the merits of  
9 its challenge to SB 54.

10 Dated: May 18, 2018

11 By: /s/ Kevin A. Calia

12 Kevin A. Calia  
13 LAW OFFICE OF KEVIN A. CALIA  
14 1478 Stone Point Drive, Suite 100  
15 Roseville, CA 95661  
16 Email: [kevin@calialaw.com](mailto:kevin@calialaw.com)  
17 Telephone: (916) 547-4175

18 Harry Sandick (*pro hac vice* pending)  
19 Jamison Davies (*pro hac vice* pending)  
20 Michael D. Schwartz (*pro hac vice* pending)  
21 PATTERSON BELKNAP WEBB & TYLER  
22 LLP  
23 1133 Avenue of the Americas  
24 New York, New York 10036  
25 Telephone: (212) 336-2000

26 *Attorneys for Amici Curiae*

APPENDIX A\*

1  
2 Kathryn Abrams  
3 Herma Hill Kay Distinguished Professor of Law  
4 University of California, Berkeley School of Law

5 Amna Akbar  
6 Assistant Professor  
7 The Ohio State University, Moritz College of Law

8 Carolina Antonini  
9 Adjunct Professor  
10 Georgia State University College of Law

11 Sabi Ardalan  
12 Assistant Clinical Professor  
13 Harvard Law School

14 David Baluarte  
15 Associate Clinical Professor of Law  
16 Washington and Lee University School of Law

17 Jon Bauer  
18 Clinical Professor of Law and Richard D. Tulisano '69 Scholar in Human Rights  
19 University of Connecticut School of Law

20 Steven W. Bender  
21 Professor and Associate Dean for Planning and Strategic Initiatives  
22 Seattle University School of Law

23 Henry Allen Blair  
24 Robins Kaplan Distinguished Professor  
25 Mitchell Hamline School of Law

26 Linda Bosniak  
27 Distinguished Professor of Law  
28 Rutgers Law School

---

\* *Amici curiae* appear in their individual capacities; institutional affiliations and titles are provided here for identification purposes only.

1 Jason Cade  
Associate Professor  
2 University of Georgia School of Law

3 Benjamin Casper Sanchez  
4 Director  
5 James H. Binger Center for New Americans, University of Minnesota Law School

6 Linus Chan  
Associate Professor of Clinical Law  
7 University of Minnesota

8 Violeta R. Chapin  
9 Clinical Professor of Law  
10 University of Colorado Law School

11 Matthew H. Charity  
12 Professor of Law  
13 Western New England University

14 Erwin Chemerinsky  
Dean and Jesse H. Choper Distinguished Professor of Law  
15 University of California, Berkeley School of Law

16 Gabriel J. Chin  
17 Edward L. Barrett Jr. Chair & Martin Luther King Jr. Professor of Law  
18 University of California, Davis School of Law

19 Marisa S. Cianciarulo  
20 Professor of Law  
21 Chapman University Fowler School of Law

22 Stephen Cody  
Research Fellow  
23 Human Rights Center, University of California, Berkeley

24 Dr. Neil H. Cogan  
25 Professor of Law  
26 Whittier Law School

27 David S. Cohen  
Professor of Law  
28 Drexel University Thomas R. Kline School of Law

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28

Marjorie Cohn  
Professor Emerita  
Thomas Jefferson School of Law

Ericka Curran  
Clinical Professor  
Florida Coastal School of Law

Seth Davis  
Assistant Professor of Law  
University of California, Irvine School of Law

Frank E. Deale  
Professor of Law  
CUNY Law School

Ingrid Eagly  
Professor of Law  
UCLA school of law

Stella Burch Elias  
Professor of Law  
University of Iowa College of Law

Richard H. Frankel  
Associate Professor  
Drexel University Thomas R. Kline School of Law

Craig B. Futterman  
Clinical Professor of Law  
University of Chicago Law School

Lauren Gilbert  
Professor of Law  
St. Thomas University School of Law

Denise Gilman  
Director, Immigration Clinic  
University of Texas School of Law



1 Joseph Harbaugh  
Emeritus Dean and Emeritus Professor  
2 College of Law, Nova Southeastern University

3 Dina Francesca Haynes  
4 Professor of Law  
5 New England Law

6 Geoffrey A. Hoffman  
7 Director  
University of Houston Law Ctr. Immigration Clinic

8 Aziz Huq  
9 Frank and Bernice Greenberg Professor of Law  
10 University of Chicago Law School

11 Alan Hyde  
12 Distinguished Professor  
13 Rutgers University

14 Ulysses Jaen  
15 Director & Asst. Professor  
Ave Maria School of Law

16 Kevin R. Johnson  
17 Dean and Mabie Apallas Professor of Public Interest Law  
18 University of California, Davis School of Law

19 Michael Kagan  
20 Professor  
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

21 Anil Kalhan  
22 Associate Professor of Law  
23 Drexel University Thomas R. Kline School of Law

24 Jennifer Lee Koh  
25 Professor of Law  
26 Western State College of Law

27 Hiroko Kusuda  
28 Clinic Professor  
Loyola University New Orleans

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27  
28

Kevin Lapp  
Professor of Law  
Loyola Law School, Los Angeles

Christopher N. Lasch  
Associate Professor  
University of Denver Sturm College of Law

Karen Pita Loor  
Clinical Associate Professor of Law  
Boston University School of Law

Peter Markowitz  
Professor of Law  
Cardozo School of Law

Fatma Marouf  
Professor of Law  
Texas A&M University School of Law

Julie Marzouk  
Associate Clinical Professor  
Chapman University—Fowler School of Law

Elizabeth McCormick  
Associate Clinical Professor of Law  
University of Tulsa College of Law

Vanessa Merton  
Professor  
Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University

Nancy Morawetz  
Professor of Clinical Law  
New York University School of Law

Hiroshi Motomura  
Susan Westerberg Prager Professor of Law  
School of Law, University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)

1 Elora Mukherjee  
Associate Clinical Professor of Law  
2 Columbia Law School

3 Karen Musalo  
4 Professor  
5 U.C. Hastings, College of the Law

6 Howard S. (Sam) Myers, III  
7 Adjunct Professor of Law  
University of Minnesota School of Law

8 Zhulmira Paredes  
9 Attorney at Law  
10 John Marshall Law School

11 William Quigley  
12 Professor of Law  
Loyola University New Orleans

13  
14 Jaya Ramji-Nogales  
I. Herman Stern Research Professor  
15 Temple Law School

16 Andrea V. Ramos  
17 Clinical Professor of Law  
18 Southwestern Law School

19 Sarah Rogerson  
20 Clinical Professor of Law  
Albany Law School

21  
22 Tom Romero II  
Associate Professor  
23 University of Denver Sturm College of Law

24 Victor Romero  
25 Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Maureen B. Cavanaugh Distinguished Faculty  
26 Scholar & Professor of Law  
Penn State Law (University Park)

27  
28

1 Michael Rooke-Ley  
Professor of Law Emeritus  
2 Nova Southeastern University

3 Carrie Rosenbaum  
4 Adjunct Professor  
5 Golden Gate University School of Law

6 Rachel E. Rosenbloom  
7 Professor of Law  
Northeastern University School of Law

8 Sarah Sherman-Stokes  
9 Associate Director  
10 Boston University School of Law

11 Juliet P. Stumpf  
12 Robert E. Jones Professor of Advocacy and Ethics  
13 Lewis & Clark Law School

14 Maureen A. Sweeney  
15 Law School Associate Professor  
University of Maryland Carey School of Law

16 JoAnne Sweeny  
17 Associate Professor of Law  
18 University of Louisville, Brandeis School of Law

19 David B. Thronson  
20 Professor of Law and Associate Dean for Experiential Education  
21 Michigan State University College of Law

22 Katharine Tinto  
23 Assistant Clinical Professor of Law  
UC Irvine School of Law

24 Philip L. Torrey  
25 Managing Attorney, Harvard Immigration and Refugee Clinical Program  
26 Harvard Law School

27 Mary Pat Treuthart  
28 Professor of Law  
Gonzaga University School of Law

1 Laurence H. Tribe  
2 Carl M. Loeb University Professor and Professor of Constitutional Law  
3 Harvard Law School

4 Enid Trucios-Haynes  
5 Professor of Law  
6 University of Louisville, Brandeis School of Law

7 Diane Uchimiya  
8 Professor and Director of the Justice and Immigration Clinic  
9 University of La Verne College of Law

10 Julia Vazquez  
11 Director, Community Lawyering Clinic  
12 Southwestern Law School

13 Leti Volpp  
14 Robert D. and Leslie Kay Raven Professor of Law  
15 UC Berkeley

16 Robin Walker Sterling  
17 Associate Professor  
18 University of Denver Sturm College of Law

19 Lindsey Webb  
20 Assistant Professor  
21 University of Denver Sturm College of Law

22 Jonathan Weinberg  
23 Associate Dean for Research and Faculty Development and Professor of Law  
24 Wayne State University Law School

25 Deborah M. Weissman  
26 Reef C. Ivey II Distinguished Professor of Law  
27 University of North Carolina School of Law

28 Richard A. Wilson  
Professor  
University of Connecticut School of Law

1 Mark E. Wojcik  
2 Professor of Law  
3 The John Marshall Law School-Chicago  
4  
5  
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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

1  
2 I hereby certify that on May 18, 2018, I electronically filed the foregoing Motion  
3 of Administrative Law, Constitutional Law, Criminal Law and Immigration Law  
4 Scholars for Leave to File an *Amici Curiae* Brief in Opposition to Plaintiff's Motion for a  
5 Preliminary Injunction using the CM/ECF system, which will send notification of such  
6 filing to all parties of record.  
7  
8  
9

10 /s/ Kevin A. Calia  
11 Kevin A. Calia  
12 Attorney for *Amici Curiae*  
13  
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