

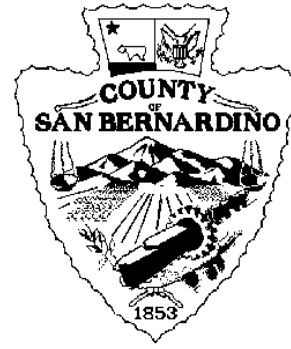
# ***NEWS***

*From the Office of*

## **Brad Mitzelfelt**

Supervisor, First District  
San Bernardino County

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **County Requests Federal Reimbursement for Jailing Illegal Aliens**

SAN BERNARDINO – The San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors today voted to request reimbursement from the federal government for costs incurred by the County for incarcerating inmates who are in the United States illegally.

San Bernardino County experiences a significant amount of crime committed by illegal aliens, with more than 4,000 illegal aliens incarcerated in the County jail system last year. The funds provided by the federal government cover only a fraction of the County's costs.

State and local government budgets in areas near U.S. borders are significantly impacted by federal immigration policies. To address the situation, the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) was created to reimburse state and local costs for incarcerating criminal aliens. SCAAP reimbursements have not come close to covering the costs incurred. The federal reimbursement the County expects to receive this year is \$2 million, while costs for managing the issue of illegal criminal aliens average \$24 million per year in San Bernardino County alone.

"Dealing with illegal aliens is primarily a federal issue, but when they commit crimes in our county, local resources are impacted," added Mitzelfelt. "I urge Congress to not only continue funding criminal alien reimbursement, but I would like to see the federal government take responsibility for the problem and fully reimburse us for our costs. San Bernardino County taxpayers shouldn't have to shoulder this burden, and should urge their elected officials to oppose current efforts to do away with SCAAP."

The San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department has implemented a successful program in recent years, in cooperation with federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officials, to screen, identify and deport immigration offenders arrested in the County. The program identified more than 4,000 illegal aliens in County jails last year who were subsequently referred to ICE for deportation.

Supervisor Mitzelfelt provided \$100,000 from his discretionary budget last year to expand the inmate screening program to outlying jails throughout the County using videoconferencing equipment. The innovative program is saving the county approximately \$260,000 annually in staffing costs, in addition to identifying additional immigration offenders.