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Testimony of Danielle Carter-Walters

Before the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Immigration

Washington, D.C.

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Good Afternoon Chairman Cornyn and members of the Subcommittee.

My name is Danielle Carter-Walters, Vice President of Chicago Flips Red. Thank you to President Donald J. Trump for giving regular citizens like us the courage to speak up, and thank you to this Subcommittee for letting me share what is really happening in our city.

Chicago Flips Red supports the work the President is doing, and we fight for the people of Chicago every day. We have also been targeted for doing what's right. Our Founder, Zoe Leigh, and our advisor, Jessica Jackson, were attacked after speaking out about stolen property in poor neighborhoods. And I recently faced pushback in Cook County court for trying to protect my community.

Even with all this, we stand with the men and women of ICE — officers who risk their lives daily. These officers get no help from Governor J.B. Pritzker or Mayor Brandon Johnson.

ICE has found dangerous criminals in Chicago — violent felons, child traffickers, drug smugglers, and cartel members — all hiding under “sanctuary” protections. ICE has stopped fentanyl shipments, broken up trafficking groups, and removed criminals who were hurting our neighborhoods. This work is especially needed in Black communities that are still recovering from the crack and AIDS crisis of the 1980s, and from the damage caused by the 1994 Crime Bill.

But instead of helping ICE, our state and city leaders block them. They refuse to share information, ignore detainees, and even threaten to arrest federal officers for doing their jobs.

Some judges have also joined in. They have made unfair rulings meant to scare ICE agents. One of the worst examples was when a judge ordered ICE Agent Gregory Bovino to report to court every day as if he were the criminal. That was not justice — it was political games backed by a one-sided media.

While this is happening, Mayor Johnson and Governor Pritzker are spending hundreds of millions of dollars on illegal migrants, while regular Chicagoans struggle. Schools are crowded, crime keeps rising, and families can't afford food or rent. Yet our leaders still put illegal migrants first.

Over 56,000 illegal immigrants are living in Chicago shelters, while our veterans and homeless sleep outside. Cartel gangs like MS-13 and Tren de Aragua now have a presence in our city. Fentanyl, guns, and human trafficking are flowing through neighborhoods that used to be filled with working families.

ICE tries to stop this, but the judges, the Illinois Attorney General, the Chicago Teachers Union, certain clergy members, the Mayor, and the Governor block them every step of the way.

This is not compassion.

This is failure.

This is betrayal of the people they were elected to protect.

Chicago is broke — a billion-dollar deficit, overpriced contracts, and a shrinking middle class. Mayor Johnson blames the government in Washington, but the truth is simple: sanctuary policies have brought chaos and corruption to our city.

So we, the people of Chicago, demand:

- A federal review of how Illinois blocks ICE from doing their job.
- A criminal investigation into judges who target ICE officers unfairly.
- A full check of all money spent by the state and the city on migrant programs.
- Police, Cook County, and federal agencies working together again.
- An end to all sanctuary policies that put our safety at risk.

Sanctuary should mean safety.

In Chicago, it now means giving up our rights and our security.

To every leader still defending these harmful policies: your time of pretending to serve the people is over. We will speak up. We will stand up. And we will not let corruption decide the future of our city.

Thank you