



AMERICAN  
IMMIGRATION  
LAWYERS  
ASSOCIATION

The American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) urges you to vote NO on S.5, the Laken Riley Act, which we expect to come for a vote this week before the Senate.

The death of Laken Riley is tragic and ensuring public safety and the effective operation of and compliance with immigration laws should be a top priority for the nation's elected leaders. Unfortunately, the Laken Riley Act does not accomplish these aims. Despite its purported aims, S.5 will impede local criminal law enforcement and create chaos in enforcement by empowering states to challenge federal immigration policy.

The bill authorizes individual states to bring costly and time-consuming litigation against the federal government whenever a state believes the federal government is improperly implementing many federal immigration laws. The bill would also mandate the unnecessary apprehension and detention of undocumented immigrants convicted of or only arrested for certain crimes, including low level misdemeanor offenses such as shoplifting.

AILA recommends you vote NO on the Senate version of the Laken Riley Act:

- The provisions in this bill would allow individual states to dictate immigration policy for the nation by allowing states to sue the government. Further, a state could sue to cease visa issuance to entire countries.
- By allowing states to sue the federal government over immigration policy, the bill would overwhelm the courts with litigation from states. The bill raises constitutional concerns by providing automatic standing to states who file politically motivated lawsuits against the federal government.
- The bill will interfere with criminal prosecutions and individuals will not be able to attend criminal court hearings while detained.
- The bill is unnecessary. Immigration law already mandates detention of people who have committed serious crimes.

- Detaining people who are unlikely to pose any risk to public safety is inhumane and unnecessary and will be costly to American taxpayers.

AILA urges you to reject S.5 and instead implement smart solutions for an effective and fair immigration system. First, Congress should fund federal immigration agencies at sufficient levels to ensure the immigration system meets the needs of the country. In addition, the federal government must ensure the entire immigration system is able to serve the needs of American families, businesses, and the nation as a whole. Mandating the mass detention of people is not a meaningful solution and will not keep our communities safer.

For these reasons, AILA urges you to consider alternatives that would increase public safety and VOTE NO against the Laken Riley Act.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Gregory Chen, Esq.

Senior Director of Government Relations

Vanessa Dojaquez-Torres

Policy and Practice Counsel

[American Immigration Lawyers Association](https://www.aila.org)

Main: 202.507.7600 | Fax: 202.783.7853 | [www.aila.org](https://www.aila.org)

1331 G Street, NW, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20005