OFFICE OF

THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

No. HB 4156

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA., _____, 20___

TIME SIGNED: _____

TO THE HONORABLE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
AND MEMBERS OF THE OKLAHOMA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
SECOND REGULAR SESSION OF THE
FIFTY-NINTH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE

ENROLLED HOUSE BILL NO. 4156:

I have signed House Bill 4156 and have caused the same to be filed with the Office of the Secretary of State.

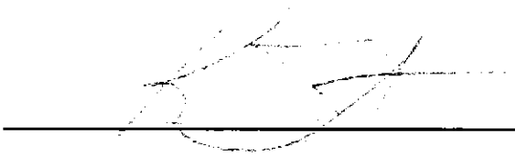
I am disappointed that House Bill 4156 is necessary. But it is. Our hand has been forced by the unprecedented border security crisis that has seen more than 52,000 Chinese Nationals along with terror organizations illegally infiltrate and wreak havoc on our great Nation and State. Oklahoma is a law-and-order state. We cannot sit idle as threats to our safety are on the rise due to the Biden administration's complete failure to offer even minimal protections. We have an obligation to keep our communities safe. And this bill will disincentivize thugs from choosing Oklahoma as a place to operate criminal enterprises after having illegally come to our country through the southern border. Simply put, we will not tolerate threats to our communities, and we will not become home to sanctuary cities.

Just as the rationale for House Bill 4156 has been made apparent, we must be perfectly clear about what this bill is not. It isn't aimed at the honest, hardworking Hispanic community here chasing the American dream. As perspective, most would probably be surprised to learn that only 18% of people who illegally cross the southern border are Mexican nationals. And the intent certainly is not to separate families here for right reasons and with pure intentions. The bill also is not intended as a creative mechanism to begin randomly rounding up individuals engaged in honest labor.

Unfortunately, some have wrongly suggested the bill will have that effect. That simply isn't how the law works though. Oklahoma is not a "stop and identify" state—one where police could compel you to identify yourself and answer questions, without any cause. Law enforcement can stop a person in public to investigate further only if reasonable suspicion of criminal activity exists. Moreover, law enforcement are prohibited from profiling based on race. I am hopeful these facts help curb fears about this bill's implications.

As I have done throughout my time as Governor, I will continue to strenuously advocate for accessibility to work visas. Members of the Hispanic community who embrace Oklahoma values and so enrich our communities should not continue to be hamstrung by a federal administration intent on allowing criminals in and keeping honest people out.

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA



HOUSE:

By _____

Date/Time _____