The following statement was issued by the undersigned Tennessee Representatives:

“Last year, the Tennessee Legislature approved House Bill 2315, now Public Chapter 973, which requires all law enforcement agencies in the state to fully cooperate with federal immigration officials in compliance with federal and state laws.

“The explicit aim of HB 2315 was to prohibit formal or de facto sanctuary policies, under which local governments or law enforcement departments in Tennessee shield illegal aliens from detection, or refuse to honor lawful requests by the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency to remand individuals who are in their custody for removal. The law was enacted to protect the welfare and safety of all citizens of Tennessee, and is consistent with a federal statute that prohibits so-called sanctuary policies.

“Nashville, the state’s capital and largest city, continues to flout both federal and state law and provide sanctuary to illegal aliens, including criminal aliens. Recently, Mayor David Briley asserted his refusal to ‘use our local resources to enforce ICE orders,’ and to ensure that ‘resources are available for undocumented immigrants should the need arise.’

“In addition to obstructing the enforcement of federal immigration laws by duly authorized federal authorities, Nashville officials are further compromising the public interest by failing to comply with Public Chapter 973. Under the law, recalcitrant city officials are jeopardizing much needed funding from the state. The law states clearly that local government entities that do not comply are potentially ‘ineligible to enter into any grant contract with the department of economic and community development.’

“We strongly urge Nashville officials to act in the best interests of law-abiding citizens of the city. Nashville is subject to the laws of the State of Tennessee and the United States of America, and the laws of both are clear: Sanctuary policies that shield illegal aliens are themselves illegal.”

Jay D. Reedy
State Representative - House District 74
Bruce I. Griffey
State Representative – House District 75

Dennis H. Powers
State Representative – House District 36

John K. Crawford
State Representative – House District 1

Paul Sherrell
State Representative – House District 43

William Lamberth
House Majority Leader – House District 44

Bryan Terry
State Representative - House District 48

Chris J. Hurt
State Representative – House District 82

Rush Bricken
State Representative – House District 47

Tom Leatherwood
State Representative – House District 99

Mark Hall
State Representative – House District 24

Curtis Halford
State Representative – House District 79

Bud Hulsey
State Representative - House District 2

Justin Lafferty
State Representative – House District 89

Chris Todd
State Representative – House District 73

Mary Littleton
State Representative – House District 78

Ron Travis
State Representative – House District 31

Jason Zachary
State Representative – House District 14

Lowell Russell
State Representative – House District 21

Kelly T. Keisling
State Representative – House District 38

Andy Holt
State Representative – House District 76
Sabi Kumar
State Representative – House District 66