



DANIEL SQUADRON
SENATOR, 26TH DISTRICT

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March 19, 2017

State Senator Andrew J. Lanza
188 State Street, Room 708
Legislative Office Building
Albany, NY 12247

Dear Senator Lanza:

As you know, President Trump's administration has expressed alarming hostility to immigration, including towards current green card holders. Recent Executive Orders from the Trump Administration have highlighted the impacts that state law has on those wishing to make a life here. It is critical that the Senate convene hearings to review and reform the impact of New York's criminal justice laws on immigrants.

Two bills that I carry with Assemblymember Rodriguez would have important impacts in this regard. S.2026 would ensure non-citizen defendants are informed of the immigration implications of a guilty plea in misdemeanor and violation cases. My Fairness and Equity Act (S.2736) would decriminalize small amounts of marijuana, address racial disproportionalities in marijuana law enforcement, and allow judges to order adjournments in contemplation of dismissal (ACD) for offences that could lead to deportation. ACDs allow for criminal charges to be dismissed if the accused does not have additional involvement with the justice system during a set period.

Like you, I represent communities with strong immigrant traditions. My district includes Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty, and I am the proud grandson of an immigrant. Our country and state have long thrived because of the contributions of immigrants, even if the current federal administration fails to acknowledge that.

I hope you agree that New York's laws should not unintentionally impact immigration status or naturalization applications. Scheduling a vote on S.2026, S.2736, and a hearing on broader impacts of New York's criminal justice laws on immigration, is important to addressing President Trump's poorly conceived, and often largely unconstitutional, attacks on immigration.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Daniel Squadron
State Senator
26th District

