



STATE OF ARKANSAS

House of Representatives

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

REP. KENDON UNDERWOOD CALLS FOR SANCTUARY CITY LAW TO BE ENFORCED FOLLOWING ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINION

Requests State Leaders Begin Withholding Funding to the City of Fayetteville

Cave Springs, Ark (SEPTEMBER 17, 2025) – Representative Kendon Underwood today sent letters to the offices of Governor Sarah Sanders and Secretary of the Department of Finance & Administration Jim Hudson requesting the State begin withholding all discretionary funds to the City of Fayetteville until the city demonstrates it is in compliance with Arkansas law. Under § 14-1-103, the city “is ineligible to receive discretionary moneys provided through funds or grants administered by the state until the Attorney General certifies that the sanctuary policy is repealed or no longer in effect.”

“I appreciate the work of Attorney General Tim Griffin and his staff on issuing this opinion and upholding the laws of our state,” said Rep. Underwood. “The opinion confirms what was clear to me from the actions and words of the City of Fayetteville and Mayor Molly Rawn: Fayetteville is a sanctuary city and is violating state law by refusing to cooperate fully with federal and state law enforcement.

“It is unfortunate that the city is jeopardizing its funding because of the radical left politics and posturing of the mayor, but the Legislature has spoken and we will not tolerate dangerous sanctuary city policies that make Arkansans less safe. I am hopeful that the mayor will reverse course, but until then I will do everything in my power to ensure the law is enforced and funding is withheld from Fayetteville.”

Representative Underwood also sent letters to Senator Ben Gilmore and Representative Les Eaves, co-chairmen of the Arkansas Legislative Council, requesting the committee’s support in withholding discretionary funds to the City of Fayetteville.

Sincerely,

Kendon R. Underwood
State Representative
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