

CLAIM: "DENISH HELPED ABOLISH THE DEATH PENALTY. EVEN FOR COP KILLERS."

VERIFICATION:

Lt. Governor Denish personally delivered a note to Gov. Richardson asking to sign the ban on the death penalty in New Mexico.

"Lieutenant Governor Diane Denish today personally delivered a hand written note to Governor Richardson urging him to sign a bill ending the death penalty in New Mexico while ensuring that convicted murderers face life in prison without possibility of parole. Denish issued the following statement: "Today I urged the Governor to sign legislation ending the death penalty in New Mexico." (Denish Press Release, 3/18/09)

CLAIM: "A DEPARTMENT IN DENISH'S CABINET GAVE SANCTUARY FOR CRIMINAL ILLEGALS, LIKE CHILD MOLESTER JUAN GONZALEZ."

VERIFICATION:

Diane Denish is the head of the Children's Cabinet. Children Youth and Families Department (CYFD) is in the Children's Cabinet. CYFD failed to notify ICE about Juan Gonzalez when he was accused of sex crimes in 2005. The CYFD Secretary even formally "suspended" a regulation in 2006 specifically ordering staff to notify ICE when they determine a client is a foreign national.

"The Children's Cabinet shall consist of the following members: 1.The Governor; 2. The Lieutenant Governor; 3. **The Secretary of Children, youth and families;**" (<http://nmchildrenscabinet.com/statute.htm>)

"... the recent debacle by the governor and the state Children Youth and Families Department cannot go without comment. This agency reports through its spokesman that in 2006 then secretary of CYFD, Mary-Dale Bolson, "suspended" a duly promulgated regulation that provides that "any time juvenile justice services staff determines a client is a foreign national the staff immediately notifies the bureau of immigration and customs enforcement (ICE)... **In fact, we wonder if he or the lieutenant governor, who chairs the Children's Cabinet,** told Bolson to "suspend" the rules back in 2006." (Heather Wilson and Hal Stratton editorial, Albuquerque Journal, 5/20/2010)

"Until 2006, CYFD was supposed to report illegal immigrants under its care to ICE officials. That policy was suspended in 2006 at the direction of then-Secretary Mary-Dale Bolson, and juveniles were no longer reported until Gov. Bill Richardson partly reinstated immigration reporting earlier this week." (Albuquerque Journal, 5/22/2010)

"Richardson earlier this week instructed CYFD staff to begin reporting violent juvenile offenders to ICE after Mexican national Juan Gonzalez, 20, was arrested May 4 and accused of criminal sexual penetration of a 6-year-old girl. **Gonzalez had been accused of sex crimes in 2005 when he was still a juvenile. Officials at CYFD knew he was in the country illegally but did not report him to ICE.**" (Albuquerque Journal, 5/22/2010)

CLAIM: "DENISH PROMISED TO REVIEW THIER POLICIES."

VERIFICATION:

As Lt. Governor, Denish oversaw the transition of the Children, Youth and Families Department when former Secretary Mary Dale Bolson was leaving. Denish distributed a press release promising that she would "review everything," including "policies, structure, and personnel."

"Lt. Governor Diane D. Denish this week will review Children, Youth and Families Department policies, structure and personnel in an effort to both create a smooth transition for outgoing Secretary Mary Dale Bolson's replacement and to consider retooling the Department to make it more responsive to the needs of New Mexico's children and families. **"I intend to review everything,** from budget to structure to the management team in an attempt to ensure New Mexicans are getting the best service from this key department," **Denish said."** (Denish Press Release, 2/21/06)

CLAIM: "BUT THE SANCTUARY POLICY STAYED, AND SO DID JUAN GONZALEZ."

VERIFICATION:

Despite Denish's "review," the CYFD sanctuary policy remained in effect until Governor Richardson ordered the department to begin reporting violent juvenile offenders to ICE in May of 2010.

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CLAIM: "AND LAST MONTH, HE ATTACKED ANOTHER CHILD"

VERIFICATION:

Juan Gonzalez was arrested for sexually assaulting a 6-year old girl in May of 2010.

"Richardson earlier this week instructed CYFD staff to begin reporting violent juvenile offenders to ICE after Mexican national **Juan Gonzalez, 20, was arrested May 4 and accused of criminal sexual penetration of a 6-year-old girl."** (Albuquerque Journal, 5/22/2010)

CLAIM: "NOW DENISH CLAIMS SHE KNEW NOTHING."

VERIFICATION:

Denish said she did not know about the 2006 CYFD policy that granted sanctuary to criminal illegal immigrants.

"Lt. Gov. Diane Denish said through a spokesman Friday that she never knew about a New Mexico Children, Youth and Families Department policy against reporting any juvenile criminals to federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials." (Albuquerque Journal, 5/22/2010)