

March 10, 2026

Dear Chair Freiberg and Members of the Committee,

We write in support of HF3886, legislation that ensures local law enforcement remains focused on community safety by prohibiting agreements with the federal government to provide facilities to receive a person into custody when the basis for detention is a civil violation of federal immigration law.

When local law enforcement becomes entangled in civil immigration enforcement, trust between officers and communities erodes. Individuals become less likely to report crimes, cooperate with investigations, or seek help in emergencies, ultimately making communities less safe.

These agreements divert local resources away from public safety priorities and expose jurisdictions to legal and financial risks, while doing little to improve safety outcomes. For Minnesota workers, fear of immigration detention discourages reporting of wage theft, unsafe conditions, and exploitation, lowering standards for all workers and allowing abuse to go unchecked.

HF3886 strengthens public safety by maintaining a clear separation between local policing and federal civil immigration enforcement, protecting constitutional rights while fostering safer and more stable communities.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge your support for HF3886.

Respectfully submitted,

CTUL Action Fund

Inquilinxs Unidxs por Justicia

ISAIAH

New Justice Project

SEIU MN State Council

UFCW 663

Unidos MN

UNITE Here - Local 17



Date of Hearing & Bill Number: March 11, 2026, HF 3886  
To: Members of the Elections Finance and Government Operations Committee  
From: North STAR Alliance  
City of Residence: Statewide organization

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The North STAR Alliance (NSA) supports HF 3886. The NSA comprises over thirty community and faith based organizations and is committed to legislation that welcomes and protects all Minnesotans, regardless of immigration status. HF 3886 would prohibit contracts by local governments to become immigration detention centers. The NSA strongly supports ending current agreements for such services as well as prohibiting such agreements in the future.

*Why does the NSA support this bill?*

**Financial burden on county jails.** Intergovernmental Service Agreements (IGSAs) between Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and county jails provide for bed space for ICE detainees. Federal reimbursement rates often fall well below the actual cost of detention. Counties absorb unreimbursed expenses for staffing, food, medical care, and facility maintenance.

Orange County, Florida, provides a very recent example. The county spends approximately \$180 per day for each ICE detainee and receives only \$88 per day for each detainee, leaving about \$92 to be covered by the county. This shortfall has county leadership considering renegotiating or terminating the agreement because of the financial strain on local taxpayers.<sup>1</sup>

The Ramsey County Jail, located in St. Paul, Minnesota, stopped taking detainees in 2018 because it cost twice as much to house an ICE detainee as was reimbursed by the federal government.<sup>2</sup>

**Poor oversight and operational standards can lead to substandard care.** IGSAs often lack uniform detention standards and adequate oversight mechanisms. A lack of accountability has led to unsafe facilities, sub-standard medical care, and a failure to meet detention standards. Local jail staff are also not trained for civil immigration detention. This leaves them ill-equipped to treat detainees appropriately.

In 2015, the National Immigrant Justice Center released a report documenting the lack of compliance with basic standards of care for ICE detainees.<sup>3</sup>

The DHS Office of Inspector General confirmed these findings in 2018 and 2019, reporting that ICE's inspections and monitoring processes failed to hold ICE and local officials accountable when detention facilities did not meet performance standards.<sup>4, 5</sup>



Internal DHS inspection reports documented independent findings of unsafe and filthy conditions, racist abuse and harassment of detainees, negligent medical and mental health care, and “barbaric” punishments, often imposed on individuals with mental health disorders. This inhumane pattern has been documented at ICE-run facilities, private facilities, and county jails across the country.<sup>6</sup>

In March 2025, the administration shut down or gutted three major internal watchdog offices, including the Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (CRCL), the Office of the Immigration Detention Ombudsman (OIDO), and the Citizenship and Immigration Services Ombudsman. The current administration has all but eliminated these oversight bodies, which inevitably makes it even more difficult to ensure safety in these facilities, setting up local jails for failure.<sup>7,8</sup>

**What’s happening in Minnesota?** As noted above, Ramsey County Jail decided not to house ICE detainees in 2018. The Carver County Sheriff in Chaska had a contract to house up to 30 people for ICE for decades, but that agreement ended during COVID. The Sheriff recently made the decision not to enter a new contract, citing that demands for guaranteed space from ICE were too great.<sup>9</sup>

Dozens of community members had turned out to the Carver County Board in January 2026 to oppose an ICE contract, bringing with them a petition with over 500 signatures. One local citizen summed it up nicely: “Do not commit county resources, facilities, or credibility to a program that drains public funds, erodes trust, and harms our local economy.”<sup>10</sup>

Jails in Crow Wing County, Kandiyohi County, Freeborn County, and Sherburne County are currently housing ICE detainees. As in similar facilities in other states, inspections have identified deficiencies regarding timely medical assessments, informed consent for medication, and plans for handling detainees with disabilities. There was no approved written policy or procedures for handling sexual abuse or assault, or suicide prevention, according to the 2023 and 2024 investigations by the federal DHS Office of Detention Oversight.<sup>11,12</sup> Community concern and lawsuits have been the reality at Sherburne County Jail,<sup>13</sup> including a suit involving the suicide of an immigrant with mental health issues resulting in a \$1,500,000 settlement.<sup>14</sup>

**Detention affects not only detainees, their families, and their communities, but also the facility staff, who are also part of the community.** Factoring in the impact on physical and mental health of these community members and their families also matters. Research suggests that “of all U.S. workers, correctional officers have one of the highest rates of nonfatal, work-related injuries,” particularly obesity, cardiac disease including risk of heart attack, and musculoskeletal injuries. Mental health conditions are more common among corrections officers than almost ANY other profession, including depression, anxiety, panic disorder, PTSD, alcoholism, self-harm, and suicide. These jobs expose workers to constant trauma and risk, result



in stress and burn-out, and spill-over of worker experience to the entire family and community Burdening these people with additional work they are not trained to do will certainly add to their struggles.<sup>15</sup>

**But isn't it better for families to be detained closer to their loved ones?** While this may be true when a person is located in a jail within the state, Metro Surge has shown us that detained persons can be moved rapidly out of Minnesota, often within a matter of hours in violation of due process, to meet the “needs” of ICE. The existence of Minnesota detention centers does not ensure detention of Minnesotans in Minnesota.

Minnesota should enact this common sense legislation.

Respectfully submitted:

North Star Alliance Leadership Team:

- Comunidades Organizando el Poder y la Acción Latina (COPAL)
- Episcopal Church of Minnesota
- Communities Advancing Prosperity for Immigrant (CAPI USA)
- Jewish Community Action (JCA)
- Asylum Coalition for Transition - Twin Cities (ACT-TC)
- Fe y Justicia
- American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU-MN)
- Minnesota Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Alliance (MUUSJA)
- Coalition of Asian American Leaders (CAAL)
- Interfaith Coalition on Immigration (ICOM)

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# MINNESOTA SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

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**March 10, 2026**

Representative Mike Freiberg, Co-Chair  
Representative Duane Quam, Co-Chair  
Elections Finance and Government Operations Committee  
Minnesota House of Representatives  
St. Paul, MN

Dear Chair Freiberg, Chair Quam, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Minnesota Sheriffs' Association (MSA), representing the 87 elected Sheriffs of Minnesota, we respectfully express opposition to HF 3886.

At its core, this legislation removes an important element of **local control** over county detention facilities. Sheriffs operate county jails on behalf of their communities and work closely with county boards to determine how those facilities are used. Under current law, counties already have the authority to decide whether or not to enter into detention agreements with federal agencies. Some counties choose to participate, while others do not. That decision appropriately rests with **locally elected officials who are accountable to their communities**.

HF 3886 would replace that local discretion with a statewide prohibition. This one-size-fits-all mandate prevents communities from determining how best to manage their detention operations and relationships with federal authorities.

It is also important to recognize that federal immigration enforcement will continue regardless of state policy. If local detention agreements are prohibited, individuals taken into federal custody will still be detained, but likely in facilities far from the communities where they live. In states where such agreements are prohibited, detainees are frequently transported long distances to other jurisdictions for detention. Many individuals have local roots, families, and support systems that are disrupted when detention occurs far from their communities.

Minnesota has long recognized that **public safety decisions, particularly those involving the operation of county jails, are best made locally** by the officials responsible for those facilities. HF 3886 would remove that long-standing local authority.

For these reasons, the Minnesota Sheriffs' Association respectfully urges the committee to oppose HF 3886.

Sincerely,

James Stuart  
MSA Executive Director