



March 17th, 2025

Representative Duane Quam
Chair, Elections Finance and Government Operations Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives
2nd Floor Centennial Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Chair Quam and committee members,

I am David Zimmer, Public Safety Policy Fellow with Center of the American Experiment.

I write today in support of HF 16 which addresses two common sense measures:

- 1) Preventing state and local government from creating law or policy that would prohibit sharing information about unauthorized immigrants with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).
- 2) Ensuring law enforcement share information with ICE about criminal offenders arrested for crimes of violence.

We know that measures such as these have broad public support. In 2024, an American Experiment poll showed that 59% of Minnesotans polled opposed last year's DFL led effort to introduce Sanctuary State legislation, and in January 2025 an AP-NORC poll showed that 83% of American adults favored the deportation of unauthorized immigrants who had been convicted of a violent crime.

It's also important to know that HF-16 aligns well with current federal law which states: "***No State or local government entity may be prohibited, or in any way restricted, from sending to or receiving from ICE information regarding the immigration status, lawful or unlawful, of an alien in the United States.***" (Title 8 US Code 1644)

As a bit of background, I retired three (3) years ago from local law enforcement. During my career, I served in several leadership capacities that involved cooperating with ICE, including as the Captain of the Hennepin County Jail. I saw first-hand during my career the importance of interagency cooperation with all our federal law enforcement partners, including ICE.

Last year, during the debate that surrounded the Northstar Bill, I became concerned with some of the narratives being used that didn't fit with the reality that I knew. I'd like to address HF-16 in the lens of these narratives.

The idea that cooperating with ICE is a waste of finite time and resources for local law enforcement simply falls flat. A core tenet of law enforcement is that officers and agencies help each other when needed. This spirit of cooperation runs both ways, and it serves as the foundation of the law enforcement community, which depends on force multipliers to properly address public safety issues.

Throughout my career, I personally worked with the FBI, ATF, DEA, the Secret Service, US Postal Inspector, US Marshal Service, Department of Defense, Department of Agriculture, Department of Energy, IRS, the US Navy Dive team, and yes ICE.



And today officers continue to routinely partner with federal authorities on a variety of matters.

It's completely appropriate for law enforcement to collect as much biographical data on those they detain as possible. It would be inappropriate for an officer not to attempt to determine the country of origin or nationality of a potential unauthorized immigrant that they were dealing with. This information facilitates several things, including mandated foreign consulate notifications, checking on the existence of outstate or international warrants, checking on the existence of terrorism watch list notifications, and assisting with future follow up or attempts to locate the individual.

It's important to note that our data practices statutes which govern law enforcement data already mandate the sharing of that information in many instances and allow for it in others.

To suggest that we should create firewalls or carve out an exception to the sharing of this data with ICE, is an uncalled-for obstruction of an appropriate law enforcement process.

HF-16 would also help to address a problem created by ICE Detainer Requests. Due to the massive volume of unauthorized immigrants ICE is responsible for, ICE tends to rely almost solely on the civil detainer and deportation process, rather than the more time-consuming criminal prosecution process.

But the civil process doesn't mesh well with detention timelines that govern local law enforcement. This dilemma would be eliminated by more timely and appropriate sharing of information with ICE – like we do with every other federal partner.

Absent this timely notification, ICE is frequently unable to take custody of individuals at the time their local holds expire. ICE is then put the unnecessary and dangerous position of having to either stand outside of jails and courthouses or going out into the community to re-arrest people who had just been in custody. These situations often result in the unintended detention and deportation of undocumented individuals who would not have come to the attention of ICE, had ICE not had to go into the community to arrest previously detained individuals.

If the argument is that immigration is a federal matter, and if, as many officials have stated, they don't want to obstruct or prevent ICE from doing their job, then we need to ensure that information is shared with ICE at the earliest stages of detention. This will ensure ICE has an appropriate amount of time to do its job, so it can focus on public safety threats, and reduce unintended consequences.

I urge you to vote yes on HF-16.

Sincerely,

David P. Zimmer

David P. Zimmer

March 14, 2025

To: Chair Quam and Members of the Elections Finance and Government Operations Committee,
Minnesota House of Representatives

RE: Written Testimony in Opposition to HF 16

Dear Chair Quam and Members of the Elections Finance and Government Operations Committee,

My name is Darcey McCampbell. I live in Minneapolis and I work as a registered nurse based in the Twin Cities. I am writing to express my opposition to HF 16. This written testimony is my own and does not represent my employers.

As a nurse I have the privilege of serving as both a community health nurse, focused on creating healthier and more equitable communities; and a forensic nurse navigating the intersections between healthcare and the criminal legal system in order to interrupt cycles of violence and injustice.

In my community health role I work across the state to bridge gaps in access to healthcare for Minnesota's diverse communities. As a forensic nurse, I work in the emergency department to provide acute care to individuals who have experienced sexual violence, intimate partner violence, trafficking, and exploitation. Trust is fundamental to providing the essential trauma informed healthcare following an assault. Forensic exams move at the speed of trust in order to understand what each unique individual needs for healing, hope, and safety. For some individuals, that process includes reporting to local law enforcement.

Across my nursing roles, I often serve individuals who are undocumented, newly arrived, refugees, and other non-citizens. As I navigate the intersection between healthcare and the criminal legal system, I am acutely aware of the barriers that exist for immigrant communities. Without trust that information will not be shared with immigration authorities, victims/survivors regardless of their legal status, will be less willing to seek out the care they need and deserve. This bill erodes that trust in local law enforcement and risks harm to community health for all Minnesotans.

As a nurse and Minnesota resident I strongly oppose HF 16. It is essential that we foster an environment where all Minnesotans can feel safe to access care, free from fear of discrimination or deportation.

Sincerely,

Darcey McCampbell, RN, PHN, SANE-A



OFFICE OF THE HENNEPIN COUNTY ATTORNEY
MARY F. MORIARTY COUNTY ATTORNEY

Hennepin County Attorney's Office
Hennepin County Government Center
300 S 6th St, Mail Code 501
Minneapolis, MN 55487

March 14, 2025

Chair Duane Quam
2nd Floor Centennial Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Quam and Committee Members,

We write to express opposition to HF16, which conscribes our local police and prosecutors into the federal immigration bureaucracy. The Minnesota Legislature and the Hennepin County Attorney's Office share a responsibility for stewarding law enforcement resources, standing up for crime victims and witnesses, and bringing violent and dangerous offenders to justice. HF16 undermines our shared responsibilities by diverting the limited resources of local police and prosecutors away from investigating and prosecuting violent offenders and into immigration enforcement, which is the sole function of the federal government.

HF16 would divert the resources of our police and prosecutors away from crime-fighting. By misplacing a federal responsibility onto our local police and prosecutors, HF16 would force us to divert time and resources away from investigating and prosecuting dangerous offenders. Every minute a police officer and a prosecutor spend working for the federal immigration bureaucracy is a minute not spent investigating the crimes that harm our residents, like murders and drug trafficking. HF16 would strain our ability to hold violent offenders accountable and deliver justice for victims.

HF16 would prevent victims from talking to our police and testifying against violent offenders. HF16 would force our police and prosecutors to report residents to Immigration and Customs Enforcement. When victims and witnesses view our local police and prosecutors as an extension of ICE, they stop talking to our police and ask us to drop charges against dangerous offenders. This is not speculation; we are seeing it every day in communities across Minnesota. Our ability to prosecute violent crimes, like shootings, rapes, and carjackings, depends on the trust of victims and witnesses.

Violent offenders would brandish HF16 like a weapon. By requiring that anyone who is arrested has to be reported to ICE, HF16 would give dangerous offenders a menu of false accusations they can use to silence victims and witnesses or disappear them out of the country. This chilling effect on victims and witnesses would make it easier for violent offenders to escape justice. Human traffickers, drug traffickers, and abusive intimate partners thrive when victims cannot come forward. If victims and witnesses stop talking to our police and prosecutors, dangerous offenders will have free rein to run roughshod through Minnesota's neighborhoods. HF16 would not make us safer—it would do the opposite.

Because of our shared responsibility for stewarding law enforcement resources, standing up for victims and witnesses of crime, and bringing violent and dangerous offenders to justice, we must oppose the passage of HF16. Failing to reject HF16 swiftly compromises active criminal investigations and prosecutions, which depend on the trust of courageous victims and witnesses.

We urge the committee to reject HF16 and instead promote policies that support our local police and prosecutors in the work we do—keeping Minnesotans safe. Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.



March 13, 2025

TO: Chair Quam and Members of the House Elections Finance and Government Operations Committee

RE: Opposition to HF 16 (Rymer)--Immigration law enforcement noncooperation ordinances and policies prohibited, use of immigration-related data provided, and county attorneys required to notify federal immigration authorities when an undocumented person is arrested for a crime of violence

Dear Chair Quam and Members of the House Elections Finance and Government Operations Committee,

On behalf of our 841 member cities, the League of Minnesota Cities (LMC) respectfully opposes HF 16, a bill that prohibits state and local units of government from prohibiting or restricting their employees from sharing immigration data with federal authorities and preempts local ordinances, regulations, and policies that limit or prohibit government employees from communicating with federal officials about the immigration status of individuals or cooperating with federal officials in immigration enforcement. Both provisions unnecessarily interfere with local decision-making authority.

This legislation threatens to compromise good relationships between city officials and immigrant communities. Local law enforcement agencies work cooperatively on a regular basis with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) while recognizing that immigration enforcement is primarily the federal government's responsibility. Local law enforcement agencies statewide depend upon trust-based relationships within immigrant communities to solve crimes and implement community policing strategies that promote public safety. Passage of HF 16 would erode this trust.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anne Finn", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Anne Finn
Intergovernmental Relations Director



March 14, 2025

Chairman Guarn

House Elections Finance and Government Operations Committee

MN House of Representatives

**RE: Written Testimony in Opposition to HF 0016
Data Privacy Concerns and Harm to Health of MN Immigrant Communities**

Dear Chairman Novotny and Members of the House Elections, Finance and Government Operations Committee:

My name is Ana Pottratz Acosta and I am a Professor of Law at Mitchell Hamline School of Law (MHSL) in St. Paul, MN, specializing in the areas of immigration law, public benefits for non-citizens and immigration status as a social determinant of health. Additionally, I also teach the MHSL Health Law Clinic, which uses a Medical Legal Partnership (MLP) model, and oversee the MLP program between Mitchell Hamline and Riverland Community Health, a Federally Qualified Health Center in St. Paul, MN. Under the MLP model used by the MHSL Health Law Clinic, law students working under my supervision provide legal services to patients of Riverland Community Health, our medical partner, as part of an interdisciplinary care team to address social determinants of health and improve health outcomes.

Please accept my written testimony, presented in my professional capacity as a law professor with specialized knowledge regarding the intersection of immigration law, health law and government benefits in opposition to HF 16. Specifically, as discussed further below, I submit this testimony to express my opposition to HF 16 on account of the broad language in the bill, in its current form, that would negatively impact the administration of all government services in the state of Minnesota. Additionally, HF 16, in its current form, inadequately protects private health information, school enrollment information and other private individual data in direct conflict with applicable state and federal law under the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act (MNGDA), Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), and Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Lastly, I submit this testimony in opposition to HF 16 on account of the likely harm this bill would cause to the health and welfare of Minnesota's immigrant community.

The Broad and Sweeping Language in HF 16 Will Negatively Impact the Administration of Government Services in Minnesota at the State, County, and Municipal Level Resulting in Harm to Minnesota Residents

While the sponsors of HF 16 have framed this bill as a common sense and narrowly tailored measure to facilitate cooperation between local prosecutors and law enforcement and federal civil immigration enforcement, a plain reading of the bill reveals this is not the case.

Specifically, HF 16 seeks to amend § 13.021 of the MNGDPA by requiring **ALL GOVERNMENT ENTITIES AND AUTHORITIES** in Minnesota to cooperate with federal immigration agencies and comply with requests for information and data made in connection with federal immigration enforcement. Further reading of HF 16 and the proposed amendments to Minn Stat. § 299A.82 confirm the broad and sweeping nature of the bill made clear in how HF 16 defines *government entity* and *political subdivision* subject to its requirements to cooperate with federal immigration enforcement. Specifically, HF 16's proposed amendments to Minn Stat. § 299A.82 adopt the definition of the terms government entity and political subdivision contained in Minn Stat § 13.02, Subdivisions 7a and 11, which state:

Subd. 7a.**Government entity** - "Government entity" means a state agency, statewide system, or political subdivision

Subd. 11.**Political subdivision** - "Political subdivision" means any county, statutory or home rule charter city, school district, special district, any town exercising powers under chapter 368 and located in the metropolitan area, as defined in section 473.121, subdivision 2, and any board, commission, district or authority created pursuant to law, local ordinance or charter provision. It includes any nonprofit corporation which is a community action agency organized pursuant to the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 (Public Law 88-452) as amended, to qualify for public funds, or any nonprofit social service agency which performs services under contract to a government entity, to the extent that the nonprofit social service agency or nonprofit corporation collects, stores, disseminates, and uses data on individuals because of a contractual relationship with a government entity.

This language makes clear that HF 16 and its requirement that government entities cooperate with federal immigration enforcement would not be limited to law enforcement agencies but would instead be imposed on virtually all state and local operations within Minnesota. Moreover, the likelihood that requests for information or data would be made by federal immigration agencies to non-law enforcement government entities in Minnesota is quite high in the current enforcement environment. According to reports, the Department of Homeland Security has recently requested that the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) provide data on undocumented individuals without a social security number who pay their taxes with an Individual Tax Identification Number (ITIN). In light of this and other efforts by the federal government to ramp up immigration enforcement, it is likely similar requests would be made to state agencies like the Minnesota Department of Human Services and local school districts for data pertaining to undocumented residents in the state of Minnesota.

HF 16 Directly Conflicts with Existing Federal and State Data Protection Laws, including the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act (MNGDPA), the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

In its current form, HF 16 would prohibit Minnesota government entities or responsible authorities from limiting or restricting the sharing of information and personal data pertaining to immigration status maintained by Minnesota government entities with federal agencies for immigration enforcement purposes. The broad scope of the language in HF 16, requiring **all Minnesota government entities**, including schools and healthcare providers, to comply with requests for data by federal agencies for immigration enforcement, directly conflicts with existing federal and state data protection law. Existing data protection law in conflict with HF 16 includes the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act (MNGDPA), the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), protecting individual health information, and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), protecting student education records.

While HF 16 contains carve out language permitting restrictions on sharing of information to assist with federal immigration enforcement where required by **any other state or local law** no such language exists to account for conflicting federal law, including HIPAA and FERPA. Because Minnesota government entities include both covered healthcare entities subject to HIPAA and public K-12 and higher education entities subject to FERPA, HF 16's failure to account for conflicting federal law raises serious concerns regarding the unlawful sharing of protected private healthcare and educational data. Additionally, because the language of HF 16 prohibits Minnesota government entities and responsible authorities from limiting or restricting the sharing of information, it strips HIPAA and FERPA covered state entities and authorities from exercising their discretion to limit release of protected private data to comply with requests by law enforcement agencies. To illustrate this issue, both HIPAA and FERPA permit covered healthcare entities and educational institutions to exercise discretion to not comply with requests for records in response to an administrative warrant or subpoena by an agency. Administrative warrants and subpoenas, differ from judicial warrants and court subpoenas which are supported by probable cause and signed by a judge. Eliminating this discretionary authority under HIPAA and FERPA to not comply with administrative warrants runs counter to the goals of these laws to protect private data from arbitrary release without the individual's prior authorization.

HF 16, if Enacted, Would Harm to the Health and Welfare of Minnesota's Immigrant Communities

In addition to the grave data privacy concerns raised by HF 16, this bill would also cause significant harm to Minnesota's immigrant communities by creating a climate of fear and reluctance by immigrant households to access healthcare and other services. On this topic, I recently authored an article, which will be published later this spring in the Minnesota Journal of law and inequality, that examined aggregated Minnesota public benefit enrollment data from MN DHS for existence of a chilling effect in response to the 2019 public charge

regulations by the Trump Administration, a rule that penalizes immigrants if they are deemed likely to become dependent of public benefits to support themselves. According to my findings, there was a statistically significant reduction in the number of Minnesota immigrant households receiving means tested benefits following publication of the public charge regulations in 2019. For example, in mixed status households receiving MFIP and SNAP benefits, and often these are households consisting of undocumented parents receiving benefits for U.S. citizen children, between the first quarter of 2018 and first quarter of 2019, there was a reduction of 8.5% in cases, between quarter one of 2019 and 2020, there was further 12.75% decrease in cases, and in 2021, the last year of data I examined, the number of combined MFIP and SNAP cases decreased by 15.73%, despite reversal of the Trump Administration public charge regulations by the Biden Administration. These results from are largely consistent with other studies by the Migration Policy Institute and Urban Institute corroborating existence of a chilling effect caused by the Trump Administration public charge regulations. I can also note, anecdotally that enrollment in Minnesota Care of newly eligible individuals under the MinnesotaCare Immigrant Expansion has been far below the levels anticipated due to fear within the immigrant community around data privacy and fear their enrollment data will be shared with ICE for immigration enforcement purposes. If immigrant households fear that their public benefit enrollment data will be shared with the federal government for immigration enforcement purposes, this will lead to further reductions in benefit enrollment and cause food insecurity, housing insecurity and other negative outcomes leading to poor health for Minnesota immigrants.

For the reasons set forth above, I strongly oppose HF 16 in its current form.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ana Pottratz Acosta
Professor of Law
Mitchell Hamline School of Law



March 17, 2025

Elections Finance and Government Operations

Re: Opposition to HF 16

Dear House Elections Finance and Government Operations:

I am writing in strong opposition to HF 16 because it poses significant public safety concerns.

To briefly summarize my credentials for providing this letter, I am a Partner at Davis Immigration Lawyers, PLLC, a leading Minnesota immigration law firm. Our firm is recognized by clients and peers for finding the most practical solutions to complex immigration law challenges. We are committed to providing high quality, affordable representation. While my practice primarily focuses on employment-based immigration, our firm represents a wide range of individuals and employers across all areas of immigration law.

This bill would be detrimental to public safety because it discourages trust between immigrant communities and law enforcement, making it less likely that undocumented individuals will report crimes, cooperate as witnesses, or seek assistance when they are victims. When local police are seen as extensions of federal immigration enforcement, immigrants—both documented and undocumented—may fear any interaction with law enforcement, leading to underreporting of crimes and making communities more vulnerable to criminal activity. Additionally, forcing local agencies to prioritize immigration enforcement diverts resources away from addressing serious crimes, reducing the overall effectiveness of law enforcement in maintaining public safety. By mandating cooperation with federal immigration authorities, this bill risks making communities less safe by fostering fear and limiting cooperation between residents and law enforcement.

This bill would be particularly harmful to U visa applicants—immigrant victims of serious crimes who assist law enforcement in investigations or prosecutions—because it would create fear and uncertainty about engaging with the justice system. The U visa program is designed to encourage undocumented victims to come forward without fear of deportation, helping law enforcement solve crimes and hold perpetrators accountable. However, if local authorities are required to report undocumented individuals to federal immigration agencies, victims may be too afraid to report abuse, domestic violence, human trafficking, or other violent crimes, fearing that seeking help could lead to their own detention or removal. This would not only leave victims vulnerable to further harm but also weaken law enforcement's ability to investigate and prosecute dangerous criminals, ultimately making communities less safe. Having worked on U visa cases for victims and applicants assisting law enforcement in the investigation and



prosecution of serious violent crimes (including domestic abuse and murder), I have grave concerns about this bill's impact on public safety.

Minnesota thrives because of its immigrant communities, who contribute significantly to the state's economy, workforce, and cultural richness. Immigrants are essential workers in industries like healthcare, agriculture, and manufacturing, filling critical labor shortages and driving economic growth. My clients range from major multi-billion-dollar corporations to small family businesses across a wide range of industries in our state, but they all share a need for the work and expertise of immigrant workers.

Immigrants are also small business owners, taxpayers, and community leaders who strengthen our neighborhoods and schools. Laws like this not only undermine public safety but also threaten Minnesota's workforce and economy by creating fear and instability for immigrant families. When immigrants feel unsafe, they are less likely to engage with law enforcement, access essential services, or fully participate in their communities. Sadly, I can confirm that the level of fear and anxiety among Minnesota's immigrant communities has skyrocketed since the November election. Rather than fostering safety, this bill would create division and make Minnesota less secure for everyone. I urge the committee to oppose this harmful legislation and instead support policies that build trust, protect victims, and ensure a stronger, safer Minnesota for all.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rachel Davis Scherf", is written over a thin horizontal line.

Rachel Davis Scherf



Jamar Hardy, Chair
Edina Realty

Jason Marvin, Vice-Chair
*Boeckermann, Graftstrom,
& Mayer, LLC*

Michael O'Neil, Treasurer
Target

Matt Amendola
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Former Client, City of Minneapolis

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Craig A. Kepler
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Arianna Orcutt
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Kirsten Unhjem
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RaeShondra Walker
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Beth Holger
*CEO
The Link*

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*Founder
Former Vikings Player*

Oscar Reed
*Founder
Former Vikings Player*

Gene Scapanski
*Former Link Board Chair
Retired Professor
St. Thomas University*

March 17, 2025

Chair Quam and Members of the Election Finance and Government Operations Committee

Minnesota State Capitol, Room G23
75 Rev Dr Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Quam and Members of the Election Finance and Government Operations Committee,

Thank you all for your leadership and public service for our State – I and all of us here at The Link greatly appreciate it! I am writing this letter on behalf of The Link and the youth and families that we provide support, emergency shelter and housing for. The Link is a nonprofit that provides crisis intervention, supportive services, emergency shelter and housing for youth and young families who are experiencing homelessness or who have been victims of sex trafficking. We also provide five juvenile justice alternative programs.

We were recently made aware that there is a bill (HF16) that would create concerning and dangerous situations for our community along with the youth and families that we support. This bill would mandate that our local police departments and county sheriffs provide immigration enforcement. This proposed change of role for our police department would create barriers and fear between community members and law enforcement. Right now our local police departments are important partners in our work to support victims of crime, investigate crime and help bring the perpetrators to justice. If their focus has to change from this critical role to a new role of immigration enforcement – the concerns are many including 1) immigration enforcement would take away time from already understaffed police departments from responding to crimes (active shooters, sex trafficking, rapes, etc.) where we need them to; 2) members of our immigrant communities would be afraid to report crimes to law enforcement for fears of being detained or deported therefore crimes would go unreported, investigated and prosecuted; 3) members of immigrant communities would be afraid to come forward as witness of crimes making it more difficult to find and hold perpetrators of crime accountable.

I have worked with many victims of terrible crimes over my career – sex trafficking, sexual assaults, domestic violence, kidnappings and shootings – we absolutely need our law enforcement partners to help us respond to crimes, support victims and investigate crimes. This bill proposes changing their role away from this and we are in strong opposition to this for many reasons and urge you to vote against HF16.

Thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,

Beth Holger
CEO of The Link



Testimony of

David J. Bier

**Director of Immigration Studies
Cato Institute**

Before

**The Committee on
Oversight and Government Reform**

March 5, 2025

RE: "A Hearing with Sanctuary City Mayors"

Chairman Comer, ranking member Connolly, and distinguished members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify.

My name is David Bier. I am the Director of Immigration Studies at the Cato Institute, a nonpartisan public policy research organization in Washington, D.C. The Cato Institute's half-century of independent research demonstrates that people of all races, religions, and birthplaces can thrive when the Constitution's principles of individual liberty and limited government are followed.

Cities must deal with the fallout of Congress's failing immigration system.

Unfortunately, the US immigration system was not designed to be followed. It was designed in a way that effectively excludes the vast majority of peaceful people who want to immigrate legally to the United States. Congress's failure to meaningfully update the legal immigration system in the last 35 years has meant that only about 3 percent of those seeking legal permanent resident status in the United States received green cards in 2024.¹ For people who are not close relatives of US citizens, the percentage is less than one percent.

The result of this effective prohibition is illegal immigration. Congress should restore the immigration system envisioned by America's founders and legalize immigration through visa reform. Congress should allow people living in the United States without status or with temporary status to obtain a permanent legal status after being vetted for security concerns and paying a fee or fine. This would revitalize America's economy and would be the best approach to restoring order and legality to the immigration system.

Congress's continuous refusal to correct its past mistakes and legalize immigration has forced states and local governments to deal with the fallout of illegal immigration. America's cities benefit from the economic contributions of these immigrants, who have become integrated into their communities as family members, friends, parishioners, workers, and employers. As a result, Congress and the president have forced these communities to choose between aiding federal law enforcement or risk tearing apart their cities.

State and local governments should cooperate with the federal government when it comes to identifying individuals who threaten the lives and liberty of Americans. However, the federal government's focus on indiscriminate enforcement undermines trust and cooperation with municipalities. A better approach would require Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to concentrate its efforts on serious offenders so localities could be confident about ICE's intentions when working with local officers.

Cities have good reasons to limit cooperation with immigration enforcement.

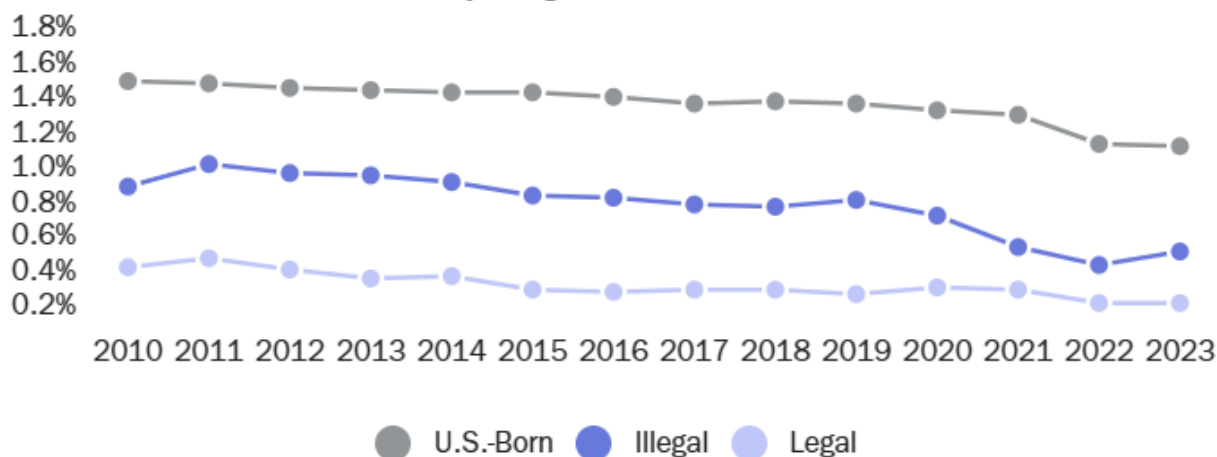
However, states should not simply agree to help the federal government with mass deportation. Even when immigrants are unable to obtain legal status, they benefit their

communities, and cities have good reasons not to indiscriminately aid the federal government in removing them.

- *Illegal immigrants provide goods and services that improve the lives of Americans.* Mass deportation would cut US production by about 7 percent of Gross Domestic Product.² Illegal immigrants look after Americans' children, provide their health care, and care for them when they become elderly and disabled. Immigrants build and clean Americans' homes, harvest their fruits and vegetables, and process their meat and seafood. Mass deportation would crash local economies, creating a death spiral of lost consumers, closed businesses, and declining tax revenue.
- *Many Americans' jobs directly depend on illegal immigrant workers.* For instance, there are 33 million US-born Americans who are managers or supervisors for over 8 million unauthorized immigrant workers.³
- *Illegal immigrants are providers for US citizen family members.* There are over one million undocumented spouses of US citizens, and nearly 17 million US citizens share a household with an unauthorized immigrant.⁴ Mass deportation would impoverish many of these families, cutting household income at least in half.⁵
- *Illegal immigrants support state and local governments* with more than \$37 billion in state and local tax revenue in 2022.⁶
- *Illegal immigrants reduce crime rates by committing fewer crimes.* More than a dozen studies have found that immigration, including illegal immigration, is associated with less crime.⁷ Illegal immigrants were half as likely to have committed an offense serious enough for them to be incarcerated in the United States in 2023.⁸

Immigrants are much less likely to commit and be incarcerated for serious crimes

Share of U.S. residents incarcerated by immigration status, 2010-23



Notes: Ages 18-54

Source: American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates, 2024 analysis by Landgrave, Michelangelo, and Alex Nowrasteh. "Illegal Immigrant Incarceration Rates, 2010–2023: Demographics and Policy Implications," Cato Institute, 2025, Forthcoming.

In recent years, there has been a negative correlation between murders and immigration court filings in major US cities from January 2021 to 2024.⁹ Murders

were down 28 percent in Denver, 30 percent in Chicago, 37 percent in New York City, and 86 percent in Boston.

Cities with large increases in undocumented immigrants saw declines in murders, even with limits on ICE cooperation

January 2021 to June 2024

Rank	City	Immigration Court Filings, Percent of Population	Change in Murders	ICE Policy
1	Salt Lake, UT	16.89%	-53.33%	Limits
2	Newark, NJ	13.36%	-35.29%	Limits
3	San Bernardino, CA	10.80%	-76.47%	Limits
4	Riverside, CA	6.50%	-61.54%	Limits
5	Aurora, CO	6.49%	-5.00%	Limits
6	Houston, TX	5.88%	-36.93%	No Limits
7	Minneapolis, MN	4.73%	-25.00%	Limits
8	Austin, TX	4.54%	21.74%	No Limits
9	Dallas, TX	4.48%	-26.85%	No Limits
10	Boston, MA	4.36%	-86.36%	Limits
11	Chicago, IL	4.03%	-29.82%	Limits
12	Indianapolis, IN	3.85%	-37.50%	No Limits
13	New York, NY	3.80%	-36.51%	Limits
14	San Jose, CA	3.65%	-26.09%	Limits
15	Cincinnati, OH	3.63%	-22.50%	Limits
16	Los Angeles, CA	3.48%	-22.12%	Limits
17	Louisville, KY	3.46%	-10.53%	Limits
18	Seattle, WA	3.36%	-17.24%	Limits
19	Denver, CO	3.36%	-28.00%	Limits
20	Stockton, CA	3.26%	-14.29%	Limits

Source: TRAC Immigration, "New Proceedings Filed in Immigration Court," Syracuse University, 2024; Real Time Crime Index, "Reported UCR Part One Crimes by Month," 2024; Jessica M. Vaughan and Bryan Griffith, "Map: Sanctuary Cities, Counties, and States," January 7, 2025.

Notes: Homicides are measured on a 6-month cumulative basis.

Of the top 20 cities with the largest increases in immigration court filings as a percentage of their population, only one (Austin, Texas) did not see a decrease in homicides. Austin, Texas is required by Texas law to do whatever ICE wants. Of the other 19 jurisdictions, 15 limit cooperation with ICE.¹⁰

Fewer than half a million immigrants with criminal convictions of any kind were on ICE's docket in 2024—which is less than 3 percent of the roughly 14 million illegal immigrants.¹¹ The ICE docket includes legal immigrants in the process of having their status removed for crimes, and some illegal immigrants who have died or left, as well as those convicted of nothing but entering illegally. Regardless, 3 percent is a low share compared to the broader population. Roughly 30 percent of Americans have been arrested,¹² and about 8 percent have felony convictions.¹³

- *Illegal immigrants can directly stop crimes.* An unauthorized immigrant working as a convenience store nightwatchman stopped a burglary in Texas.¹⁴ Another in New Mexico chased down a child abductor, safely returning a 6-year-old girl to her parents.¹⁵ Two Venezuelan asylum seekers in New York City (Oswaldo Robles Lino and Josnan Alberto Palacios) stopped a stabbing in 2024.¹⁶
- *Illegal immigrants help solve crimes.* At least before the current administration's unprecedented onslaught, noncitizens worked with police and reported crimes at higher rates than US-born Americans.¹⁷ More crimes will go unsolved if we eliminate incentives for these individuals to cooperate with law enforcement, such as U visas, or punish jurisdictions that prioritize community trust. Over the last decade, about 100,000 unauthorized immigrants have obtained legal status through their cooperation with law enforcement,¹⁸ and local agencies have about 355,000 requests pending for unauthorized immigrants to receive legal status based on their cooperation with them right now.¹⁹ Hispanics were somewhat more likely to report crimes in cities that limited cooperation with federal immigration enforcement from 1980 to 2004.²⁰
- *Cities have more important law enforcement priorities.* In the United States, more than 40 percent of murders, about 60 percent of violent crimes, and 85 percent of property crimes go unsolved.²¹ Mandating that police divert resources away from these offenses to enforce immigration status violations would make cities less safe. It prioritizes jail space for non-threatening individuals over addressing actual threats to the community. It costs New York City over \$1,500 per day to detain someone.²²
- *Reasonable restrictions on aiding immigration enforcement do not increase crime.* A dozen studies have found that limits on ICE cooperation do not lead to higher crime rates.²³ Sanctuary policies were associated with fewer assaults and burglaries after adoption in 2014.²⁴ There was no change in Florida counties that adopted sanctuary policies.²⁵ From 1999 to 2010, sanctuary policies had no effect on crime in those cities.²⁶ "Sanctuary cities," broadly defined, saw more significant decreases in both violent and property crimes from 2014 to 2016,²⁷ and they did not experience

higher violent or property crime rates than other cities.²⁸ Additionally, California's SB 54 did not increase crime rates.²⁹

A limitation of this research is that it mostly predates many of the most extreme restrictions on ICE cooperation and includes a mix of extreme and moderate restrictions. From 2010 to 2015, these policies did reduce deportations, but not of people with violent convictions. This is an indication that those policies did not severely hamper ICE's efforts to target violent criminals during that period.³⁰

Whether these conclusions hold true for much more extreme policies adopted in the wake of President Trump's 2015–2016 presidential campaign is unclear.

Illegal immigrants could contribute more to their cities and the country if they had a permanent legal status and employment authorization. States and cities should not cooperate with immigration enforcement efforts targeting peaceful individuals.

States have the power to limit cooperation with the federal government.

States have the independent authority to decide how their law enforcement agencies interact with federal immigration enforcement. Although regulating immigration falls solely under federal jurisdiction, and federal law is supreme, states may still determine how to allocate their resources and whether to assist in enforcing federal law. Congress may not mandate states to comply with the federal government's bidding.

Under the Constitution's federalist system, state governments are not creations of the federal government. Under the 10th Amendment, states retain all powers not explicitly delegated to the federal government. This system of "dual sovereignty" keeps the states directly accountable to their citizens for any actions that the states take. They cannot claim that the federal government "forced" them to take any particular action.

As the Supreme Court stated in *Printz v. United States* (1997), "The power of the Federal Government would be augmented immeasurably if it were able to impress into its service- and at no cost to itself- the police officers of the 50 States."³¹ The Supreme Court has extended this principle to include the use of federal monetary grants to coerce cooperation. *NFIB v. Sebelius* (2012) stated: "Congress may use its spending power to create incentives for States to act in accordance with federal policies. But when 'pressure turns into compulsion,' *ibid.*, the legislation runs contrary to our system of federalism."³²

Moreover, several courts have found that it is unconstitutional for states to detain individuals solely based on a federal request.³³ More than a dozen settlements have involved subjects of immigration detainers who were wrongly detained by localities.³⁴ This means that states and localities *cannot* lawfully arrest and detain someone merely based on an immigration detainer request from the federal government without a court order supported by probable cause. Many states and cities are labeled "sanctuaries" simply for following these court decisions.

During its first term, the Trump administration attempted to impose new requirements for certain law enforcement grants. However, four of the five appeals courts that considered the issue found that those requirements were adopted unlawfully and unconstitutionally.³⁵ As the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals wrote in 2020, “states do not forfeit all autonomy over their own police power merely by accepting federal grants.”³⁶

The administration sows mistrust between federal and local law enforcement.

Notwithstanding these facts, the Trump administration is attempting to bully state and local governments into compliance with his agenda.

- *The administration is attempting to coerce state governments unconstitutionally.* He has issued an executive order that attempts to block all federal grants to municipalities that do not allocate their resources to help ICE.³⁷ His administration has sued Illinois and Chicago for refusing to help ICE, asserting that the president can mandate that they do what he wants.³⁸ His Department of Justice (DOJ) has issued a memorandum requiring *criminal* investigations into state and local officials who fail to cooperate with the federal government.³⁹
- *The administration is attempting mass deportation of noncriminals.* President Trump signed an executive order removing requirements that ICE target public safety threats, and instead mandating ICE and DOJ to focus on immigration status violations.⁴⁰ A majority of the people that ICE has arrested since President Trump’s inauguration have no criminal convictions.⁴¹ In fact, two-thirds of the increase in ICE book-ins from ICE arrests have come from individuals with no criminal convictions—including a sevenfold increase in detentions of individuals who had criminal convictions or criminal charges.⁴²
- *The administration is targeting lawful immigrants for deportation.* President Trump is revoking the legal status of more than a million people who are living in the United States legally.⁴³ He is ending parole and Temporary Protected Status even for immigrants who entered the country through legal channels.⁴⁴ ICE is already arresting people with valid parole status and subjecting them to detention and expedited removal.⁴⁵ Additionally, they are arresting fathers and breadwinners in an attempt to force families to leave.⁴⁶
- *The administration is attempting to arrest and deport US citizens.* The president signed an executive order that purports to strip US citizenship from, and render deportable, all children born to temporary visa holders and people without lawful status, despite the constitutional guarantee of birthright citizenship.⁴⁷ This flagrantly unconstitutional act effectively calls for a series of serious crimes, including wrongful arrests, imprisonment, civil rights violations, and unlawful deprivation of voting rights. Although he claims it will only be applied to people born after February 2025, it is unprecedented in American history for a president to seek the power to strip potentially tens of millions of US citizens of their constitutional rights.

- *The administration is ordering violations of the law.* President Trump signed an executive order that explicitly states that he can ignore any law passed by Congress that limits the removal of noncitizens.⁴⁸ He has told Border Patrol and ICE to ignore “provisions of the INA [Immigration and Nationality Act] that would permit their [certain noncitizens’] continued presence in the United States.”
- *The administration is misrepresenting his immigration agenda.* In his inaugural address, President Trump stated that he would be removing “millions and millions of criminal aliens”—even though there are not millions and millions of immigrants with criminal records.⁴⁹ His administration has erroneously claimed that all the immigrants that they have arrested have “criminal records,”⁵⁰ and we now know that most do not. They have also said that only the “worst of the worst” would be detained at Guantanamo Bay prison, but we now know that 39 percent were deemed low-level offenders even by the current administration,⁵¹ and some entered legally and never violated any US law.⁵²

The Trump administration’s lawless assault on the rule of law in pursuit of indiscriminate mass deportation creates mistrust between immigrants and law enforcement and between state and local governments and the federal government. Congress should restore cooperation and trust by requiring that ICE target only serious criminal threats and work with state and local governments to stop serious criminals in their communities.

Congress should not attempt to coerce states and cities into mass deportation

Unfortunately, rather than attempting to reestablish trust, Congress is considering legislation that explicitly seeks to coerce states and localities into cooperation with mass deportation. H.R. 32, the No Bailouts for Sanctuary Cities Act, forces states and cities to choose between federal grants and literally any other governmental priority.

- *H.R. 32 does not focus on public safety.* Instead, it would mandate cooperation with ICE when necessary to protect the public from a safety threat. This bill imposes a blanket mandate that supports the Trump administration’s indiscriminate, random, and chaotic deportation agenda.
- *H.R. 32 mandates cities violate the Constitution and court orders.* H.R. 32 would mandate that cities comply with all ICE requests to detain immigrants. This would force cities to violate court orders and settlements stating that local police cannot detain people solely based on immigration detainers, as this is an arrest without probable cause.⁵³ Many US citizens have been targeted by ICE detainers.⁵⁴
- *H.R. 32 imposes unfunded mandates and liabilities on states and localities.* In addition to the risk of lawsuits, H.R. 32 requires state and federal governments to allocate their criminal law enforcement resources to engage in deportation efforts, without providing any additional funds to states and localities to carry out the mandate. Local police already struggle to keep pace with America’s high crime rates. They do not need additional burdens imposed—especially when Congress refuses to pay for those burdens.

- *H.R. 32 unconstitutionally coerces US cities and states.* The legislation explicitly attempts to coerce states and localities into following federal dictates by withholding all federal grants to those cities—for everything from education to transportation to housing to policing—that the city or state “intends to use for the benefit” of illegal immigrants. As the Supreme Court said, “Permitting the Federal Government to force the States to implement a federal program would threaten the political accountability key to our federal system.”⁵⁵ Moreover, the bar is raised to impose conditions after the grant program starts because taking away existing funds is more coercive than limiting new grants, and it is also unconstitutional because H.R. 32 jeopardizes grants that have nothing to do with immigration policy.⁵⁶ Finally, threatening to pull the plug on funding to law enforcement is fundamentally more threatening than anything attempted in the past.⁵⁷
- *H.R. 32 is a classic case of “pass-the-bill-to-see-what’s-in-it.”* No one—not even the bill’s authors—can say exactly which federal grants could be deemed “intended for the benefit” of undocumented immigrants, violating the Supreme Court’s requirement that any limitations on federal grants must be clearly stated in law.⁵⁸ However, since all grants, in theory, directly or indirectly, can benefit everyone in the area, H.R. 32 could plausibly be used to deny all grants to certain states or cities.
- *States cannot constitutionally avoid H.R. 32’s coercion.* It is impossible for states and localities to avoid spending some resources on illegal immigrants. For instance, states and localities cannot lawfully interrogate individuals about their immigration status without reasonable suspicion before they use public areas or roads, as established in *Arizona v. United States*.⁵⁹ Moreover, the Supreme Court ruled in *Plyler v. Doe* that all states must provide public education equally to all persons within their borders, so no state can lawfully deny education—partially funded by federal dollars—to someone without legal status.
- *H.R. 32 is an attack on federalism.* Regardless of its constitutionality, H.R. 32 is a direct threat to federalism. Intergovernmental grants always undermine federalism and imperil local accountability, but H.R. 32’s attack on federalism is of a different character. If enacted, it would establish a precedent allowing the federal government to fully dictate all state and local policing priorities—a direct repudiation of America’s founders’ intent.
- *H.R. 32 targets cities that follow state policies over which they have no control.* Every jurisdiction in at least 14 states will lose federal funding under H.R. 32 even if they had no choice whether to adopt the policies that the bill targets.⁶⁰
- *H.R. 32 turns state and local governments against their own residents and citizens.* States and localities must either comply with H.R. 32’s mandates, which would tear apart their communities, rip up families, and destroy local economies, or risk being effectively expelled from the fiscal union of the United States. While H.R. 32 would still tax these cities, the collected funds would be redistributed to states and localities that adopt the authors’ preferred immigration policies. No matter what they choose, the targeted states and localities lose.

Congress should follow the advice of the Major City Chiefs Association: “The decision to have local police officers perform the function and duties of immigration agents should be left to the local government. This shall not be mandated or forced upon them by the federal government through the threat of sanctions or the withholding of existing police assistance funding.” While state and local governments will not always make the correct decisions about how to allocate their resources, they are usually better equipped to do so than the federal government.

Immigrants who have violated the rights of Americans should be deported, but to achieve that outcome, we need to reform our immigration laws. Congress should let peaceful immigrants pay to get vetted, work, and contribute legally to society, while enabling law enforcement at all levels to focus on keeping Americans safe.

Much of this testimony was previously presented in other congressional hearings

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Dear Chair Quam and Members,

The six undersigned crime victims' coalitions write today in concern over HF16. Collectively, we represent crime victims' service providers in every county of the state. Our advocates work with crime victims from all walks of life, and they do commonly work with undocumented survivors of violent crime.

We are concerned that this legislation may make survivors of crime - including domestic and sexual violence, child abuse, and general crime - more vulnerable. Undocumented survivors are frequently afraid of contacting emergency services, including law enforcement when they are subject to crimes because of the fear of deportation. This fear is often enough to prevent a survivor from accessing critical resources. Abusive partners, employers, and family members further isolate victims/survivors of violence by using immigration status to maintain power and control.

Even when a survivor is on a visa or other documented status, this bill could harm survivors. Abusive partners, family members, and employers will sometimes attempt to maintain control over the identifying documents of a victim/survivor. If a survivor is on a work or student visa, and must maintain their employment or student status, leaving an abusive family or employment situation becomes more difficult because the immigrant-survivor will have a much harder time than a citizen-survivor would have in relocating if necessary. Doing so may result in loss of status, and open them up the immigration consequences of this and other laws.

Sometimes an undocumented person is not a victim of crime, but instead a key witness to a crime. Without confidence that their participation in the justice process will not cause them harm, these witnesses may be reluctant to cooperate with an investigation.

By removing the ability for undocumented people to interact with any form of government authority in Minnesota without worrying about immigration enforcement, HF16 would cause victims and survivors to have even fewer options to access resources and safety. This fear would impede the willingness of survivors to participate in our justice and law enforcement systems. It would also create an avenue for even further exploitation of immigrant Minnesotans, who already face a myriad of barriers to full participation in society. We urge you to vote no on this bill, and work to increase a survivor's options, not decrease them.

Thank you,

Guadalupe Lopez	Cinnamon Bankey	Kenosha Alexander
Executive Director	Executive Director	Interim Executive Director
Violence Free	Mending the	Minnesota Coalition
Minnesota	Sacred Hoop	Against Sexual
		Assault

Nicole Matthews	Marcia Milliken	Bobbi Holtberg
CEO	Executive Director	Executive Director
Minnesota Indian	Minnesota	Minnesota Alliance
Women's Sexual	Children's	on Crime
Assault Coalition	Alliance	

March 14, 2025

Elections Finance and Government Operations

Minnesota House of Representatives

Dear Chairman Quam and Representative Freiberg,

I am Evan Hromada, and I live in St. Paul Minnesota. I have a master's degree in public policy and a master's degree in public health from the University of Minnesota.

I oppose HF 16. HF 16 would erode public health and consequently erode public safety. Strong public health creates strong public safety. The goal of this bill is to promote public safety, but instead, this bill would make our communities less safe by further pressing undocumented immigrants to live in the shadows. Prohibiting non-cooperation of government entities will harm communities when immigrant communities fear seeking treatment. In addition to this, HF 16 conflicts with HIPAA, the federal health data privacy act. HF 16 attempts to prohibit safeguarding of data relating to immigration status by any state and government employees, including by any local or county public health department.

Access to quality and affordable health care should not be based on immigration status. this bill has the effect of removing access to treatment for undocumented immigrants while increasing prices for people with legal status. Undocumented immigrants already have less access to health insurance compared to legal residents. Less access to insurance will increase as the state removes the opportunity for undocumented immigrants to seek treatment without the fear of data being reported to immigration officials.

My studies in public health taught me as more healthy people are insured in the insurance pool, that spreads the risk for everyone resulting in lower premiums – our goal should be to make insurance more accessible without fear of data being shared to facilitate premiums decreasing. Data from Migration Policy Institute shows that only 18% of the undocumented immigrant population in the state are over 45 years old¹ meaning that 82% of the undocumented immigrants in the insurance pool, who could be chilled out of their policy or scared out of applying for one in the first place. These are people who could help to bring premium prices down for you and residents in your district so long as they feel safe seeking government assistance¹.

We have seen the consequences outside of insurance that follow when undocumented immigrants skip preventative care and resort to emergency rooms when care needs become acute. Once undocumented immigrants have to seek emergency care without insurance, then costs increase for emergency visits as ERs raise prices to make up for the difference. This means higher prices for constituents.

Undocumented immigrants who seek vaccines at the county public health departments will fear their data being sent to federal immigration enforcement, and this may affect their willingness to get vaccinated. The vaccine rate in Minnesota already is not what it needs to be for many important childhood vaccines. Even the smallest decline of community vaccination rates places everyone at risk for preventable diseases.

Minnesota Health Fairview explains that for herd immunity from measles, a 95%

¹ Profile of the Unauthorized Population: Minnesota, Migration Policy Center (visited Mar. 11, 2025).

vaccination rate is required in communities². The Minnesota Department of Health shows that only 76.9% of the state have received full doses of the Measles, Mumps and Rubella vaccine (MMR) by the age of six³.

Even the best data suggests that for newborns, the first MMR vaccine rate is at 93% - too low for herd immunity already. When immigrants fear their data being shared with the federal government, that places barriers in increasing the vaccination rate for the state. It is imperative to ensure that this bill is not passed so that everyone can seek assistance at local and county health departments without fear of their data being sent to immigration enforcement. Preventable diseases do not care what your immigration status is.

This bill will increase insurance premiums, medical care cost, and risk of preventable disease, while decreasing community safety. For these reasons, I urge you to vote against HF 16.

Evan Hromada

² Candace Nelson, Measles Outbreaks are in the News. Here's What You Need to Know, Minnesota Fairview Health (Mar. 5, 2025).

³ Current Childhood and Adolescent Immunization Coverage Rates, Minnesota Department of Health (Updated Jan. 5, 2025).

March 14, 2025

Elections Finance and Government Operations Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives

Dear Chairman Quam and members of the Committee,

My name is Lilian Carcamo. I am from Guatemala.

I fled for my life from my home country of Guatemala in late 2003 and arrived in the United States in 2004. During the summer of 2004, I began dating a man here in Minnesota who I will call "Ivan." At first, we were in a strong relationship and were committed to each other. But he drank too much and began to abuse me. One time he headbutted me so hard it split open my forehead. He physically and emotionally abused me more than just that time. I was afraid of him and did not report this to the police at that time.

I was finally able to leave the relationship in December 2004 but discovered in February 2005 that I was pregnant with "Ivan's" child.

Because we were not together anymore, Ivan had not yet learned that I was pregnant when I went with a friend to a video store called *Video Latino* to rent a video to watch. This was in early March 2005. I saw "Ivan" in the store and thought it was a chance to give him the news.

"Ivan" still did not know I was pregnant with his child so I tried to talk to him and tell him the big surprise. However, he only ignored me. Then he put his finger to his lips, indicating that I should be quiet. I asked him why he was doing this.

I insisted that we had to talk, but instead "Ivan" again told me to be quiet. I then saw that he had brought another woman with him. The woman came up to him and asked, "What's going on, 'Ivan'?" I asked him who this woman was, and he claimed that I was crazy and he did not know me. The other woman said, "I'm his wife! Who are you?" I was in shock, and I asked him, "Why didn't you tell me you were a married man?"

When his wife asked him who I was, he lied and said, "I don't recognize this woman. I don't know her." At that moment I was quite upset, and I was frank with him. I told him I was ten-weeks pregnant with his child. And his wife, coincidentally, said she too was pregnant with his child.

I asked him again for an explanation but he struck me twice in the face, even though I had just told him I was carrying his child. Right there in the rental store, he hit me. I quickly asked the ladies who worked there to phone the police while "Ivan" was still in the store. However, "Ivan" told them that they did not have to call the police. Since the employees called "Ivan" by name, I think they knew him as a regular customer and wanted to cover for him. Therefore, they did not call the police for me.

I then left the video store with my face badly wounded. Marisol helped me and took pictures of my face, and together we went to the police station in order to make a statement about what had happened and how “Ivan” beat me.

My friend gave me the strength to go to the police. **If I had thought that the police were going to report me to immigration, I would have been even more afraid and not gone. I was hoping they would give me justice and protection, because that does not happen in my country.** The police later arrested “Ivan” for the crimes he committed against me. He was charged with six crimes and made a plea bargain. During the legal process, I had to get an order of protection against “Ivan” and his wife.

As I said earlier, I fled Guatemala out of fear. I had to leave my children behind. Three of my children followed me to the U.S. when I learned that they were being abused. When two of them were caught by immigration at the border and put in deportation proceedings, I also was caught when I took them to one of their hearings.

I, too, was put in deportation proceedings. Because of the persecution I faced in Guatemala, I was able to ask for asylum. But because I had also been a crime victim here and had been helpful to the police, **I was also able to ask for a U visa, which is for victims of crime. I was able to get permanent residency. And I will never forget November 25, 2024, because that is the day I became a U.S. citizen.**

I am able to remember all that happened to me twenty years ago this month because I had to tell this story and write it down in order to apply for a U visa. I shared this story in Spanish and it was written down in English for me.

I close my letter by asking people to oppose House File 16.

Thank you for your time,

Lilian Carcamo
United States Citizen

MN8
550 Rice St, 2nd Floor
Saint Paul, MN 55103

March 14, 2025

RE: Opposition to HF16

Dear Elections Finance and Government Operations Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition of HF16. HF16 will be detrimental to the public safety and betray the community trust in Minnesota. We urge the committee to reject this bill. We must protect all Minnesotans, which includes immigrants and refugees. The ability to have separation ordinances helps keep our communities safe and allows community values to be at the center of our policies.

My name is Kay Moua, Director of Programs at MN8, an organization that is working to keep Southeast Asian families and communities together. Since 2016, our organization evolved from a grassroots campaign formed by the families of 8 Cambodian Minnesotans who were advocating to protect their families and loved ones from unjust ICE enforcement.

Minnesota is home to one of the largest Southeast Asian refugee populations in the world. 2025 marks the 50th year since the U.S. military intervention in Southeast Asia, which caused the mass displacement of over 1.2 million Southeast Asian refugees resettling in the U.S. The U.S. dropped more than 2 million tons of bombs in Laos and Cambodia. We are here because the U.S. was there. As refugees and immigrants, all we have ever wanted is a peaceful and safe world. Refugees and immigrants have survived unimaginable violence. Detention and deportations are inhumane and reflect the cruel conditions of wartime. Deportation would mean sending refugees and immigrants back to these situations. Many refugees and immigrants came here with hopes and dreams for a better life.

A bill such as HF16 would deeply harm public safety by eroding trust between law enforcement and immigrant communities. Immigrants and refugees are a vital part of Minnesota's tapestry. HF16 would disrupt the workforce, economy, and society by deterring immigrants from essential industries such as healthcare, education, government offices, social services, and more. We have a moral obligation to uphold the dignity, rights, and safety of all people, creating a culture of justice and inclusion.

Many of our communities have chosen Minnesota as our home because Minnesota has always been a leader in the values of freedom, families, and taking care of our neighbors. We urge you to stand with all Minnesotans and embody the spirit of Minnesota.

Sincerely,
Kay Moua



North STAR Alliance

March 14, 2025

Subject: Strong Opposition to HF 0016 – A Threat to Minnesota’s Public Safety and Community Trust

Dear Chair Quam and Members of the House Elections Finance and Government Operations Committee,

The North STAR (Safety, Trust, and Responsibility) Alliance strongly opposes HF 0016, which would erode local control of finite government resources and pit Minnesota counties against each other. It prohibits local policies of noncooperation, overriding community-based approaches designed to foster trust and safety. Passage of this bill will undermine community safety, economic stability, and the dignity of all Minnesotans.

HF 0016 Undermines the Services Minnesotans Need from Their Local and State Agencies

Minnesota’s 87 counties, 853 cities, and 1,782 towns have diverse needs and limited resources to keep their communities thriving.

HF 16 prohibits local governments from restricting information sharing between officials and federal immigration authorities, effectively preventing local jurisdictions from enacting community trust policies. HF 0016 will allow rogue employees of local and state agencies, over the objection of their agencies, to report on the citizenship status of community members.

If residents fear that a local official will report them, potentially mistakenly, to immigration authorities, they are less likely to participate in local events, obtain needed services, seek protection from violence, or serve as witnesses in the judicial system.

Evidence from other states has shown that communities with policies preventing unnecessary communication with immigration officials experience lower crime rates and higher cooperation with police. Local governments should focus on public safety and the well-being of their residents—not on federal immigration enforcement.

Recent work by the Cato Institute supports this. David Bier, its Director of Immigration Studies recently asserted that undocumented immigrants “reduce crime rates by committing fewer crimes.” Undocumented immigrants are much less likely to commit and be incarcerated for serious crimes than U.S. born persons. For example, in 2023, 0.6% of undocumented immigrants were incarcerated, compared to 1.2% of U.S. born citizens.¹

¹ Testimony of David J. Bier, Dir. of Immig. Studies, Cato Institute, Before the Comm. on Oversight & Government Reform (Mar. 5, 2025), p. 3.



It has been shown that from January 2021 to June 2024, as immigration court filings have gone up, murders have gone down. “Murders were down 28 percent in Denver, 30 percent in Chicago, 37 percent in New York City, and 86 percent in Boston,” all cities with limits on ICE cooperation.²

Of the top 20 cities with the largest increases in immigration court filings as a percentage of their population, only one (Austin, Texas) did not see a decrease in homicides. Austin, Texas is required by Texas law to do whatever ICE wants. Of the other 19 jurisdictions, 15 limit cooperation with ICE.³

Studies have shown that reasonable restrictions on collaboration with immigration authorities do not increase crime. According to Bier, a “dozen studies have found that limits on ICE cooperation do not lead to higher crime rates.”⁴ One study covering 2010-2015, a time when the separation ordinances of Minneapolis and St. Paul had long been in place, found that “these policies did reduce deportations, but not of people with violent convictions. This is an indication that those policies did not severely hamper ICE’s efforts to target violent criminals during that period.”⁵

In 1980, the US population was made up of 6.2% immigrants and crime was measured at 5,900 crimes per 100,000 people. In 2022, the immigration population increased to 13.9% of the population and the rate of crime declined to 2,335 crimes per 100,000 people marking a 60% drop in crime.⁶ Law enforcement should focus on public safety—not federal immigration enforcement.

HF 0016 will force peace officers and county attorneys to report anyone who is undocumented among those arrested for certain crimes — regardless of whether those persons are convicted or even prosecuted. This diverts those resources from providing services to Minnesotans. Immigration law is complicated and is best left to federal agents.

HF 0016 Encourages Racial Profiling and Civil Rights Violations

HF 0016 prohibits local noncooperation ordinances, opening the door for government officials to share immigration information in a discretionary or discriminatory way. Many Minnesota cities and counties—including St. Paul and Minneapolis—have chosen not to assist ICE to ensure that immigrant residents feel safe engaging with local law enforcement.

² *Id.* at 3-4.

³ *Id.* at 5.

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ *Id.* at 6, citing to David K. Hausman, [Sanctuary Policies Reduce Deportations Without Increasing Crime](#), Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A 117, no. 44 (Oct. 19, 2020): 27262-27267. See also, Virgil Wiebe, [Immigration Federalism In Minnesota: What Does Sanctuary Mean In Practice?](#), Univ. of St. Thomas Law Journal (2017), pp.17-20.

⁶ [Debunking the Myth of Immigrants and Crime](#), American Immigration Council (Oct. 17, 2024), <https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/research/debunking-myth-immigrants-and-crime>.



In states with similar laws, U.S. citizens and legal residents have been mistakenly reported to ICE or unlawfully detained due to racial profiling. The bill does not include clear safeguards against abuse, leaving room for racial bias in how and when individuals are reported to federal immigration authorities.

The bill does compel federal entanglement in local law enforcement in one respect. The bill would require county attorneys to report to immigration authorities anyone arrested for certain crimes, regardless of whether the person was convicted or even whether the county attorney planned to prosecute the person.

HF 0016 is in direct conflict with existing federal and state data protection rules and policies of any state agency that prevent sharing of private data and could apply to hospitals, schools and other institutions that retain sensitive private data. This bill aims to allow any hospital or school official with access to data systems containing private information to cull these systems for private information connected to the immigration status of the individual, their parents or other household member and sharing this with ICE. Even if it is currently a violation of federal and state law to share protected private data in certain circumstances, any official would be within their right to share protected data that includes immigration status information with ICE, even if it were motivated by racism or retaliation.

This will not only chill cooperation with law enforcement but also will lead to immigrants staying away from school, hospitals, and refusing to raise wage theft and other claims with state and local agencies, causing a negative impact on the health and welfare of local immigrant communities. Also, if ICE starts making requests to schools for lists of all their students and their immigration status, schools would be required to comply with these requests, resulting in an expenditure of time and resources that would be better used to meet the educational needs of students.

HF 0016 Threatens Minnesota's Economy

Minnesota's economy depends on **immigrant workers in essential industries** such as healthcare, agriculture, and food production. By **creating a climate of fear and uncertainty**, HF 0016 will cause workforce disruptions, harming businesses and local economies.⁷ Rather than contributing to society, detained immigrants become **burdens on taxpayer-funded detention centers**, diverting public resources from education, healthcare, and public safety.

HF 0016 Overrides Local Control and Pits Minnesota Communities Against Each Other

Many Minnesota cities and counties have adopted policies that build trust between local governments and immigrant communities. HF 0016 would override these local decisions. Moreover, it will pit communities against each other. The current bill would allow a county

⁷ Rebecca Davis O'Brien & Miriam Jordan, [*A Chill Sets In for Undocumented Workers, and Those Who Hire Them*](#), N.Y. Times (Mar. 9, 2025).



attorney to investigate a city or town on the other side of the state for violations of the law. This sets a dangerous precedent for future legislation.

The North STAR Alliance urges the Committee to reject HF 0016 and instead support policies that foster trust in government, uphold local control of limited resources and time, and affirm the dignity of all Minnesotans.

Faith and Moral Responsibility to Protect Immigrants and Provide Leadership

Faith traditions and ethical principles demand that we welcome and protect the stranger:

Leviticus 19:33-34 – “When a stranger resides with you in your land, you shall not mistreat them. The stranger who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love them as yourself.”

Matthew 25:35 – “For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me.”

Qur’an 59:9 – “The men who stayed in their own city and embraced Islam before them loved those who have sought refuge with them. They do not covet what they are given but rather prefer [their brothers and sisters] above themselves although they are in need. Those who preserve themselves from their own greed shall surely prosper.”

“A belief in ‘the inherent worth and dignity of every person’ is core to Unitarian Universalism: every person, no exceptions. As religious people, our Principles call us to acknowledge the immigrant experience and to affirm and promote the flourishing of the human family.”

“In the U.S., about half or more of Buddhists (50%), Jews (50%), Muslims (57%) and Hindus (73%) say that a growing population of immigrants is a change for the better. . . . Eight-in-ten or more Hindus, Jews, Muslims and Buddhists also say the country’s racial and ethnic diversity strengthens American society.” Pew Research Center, 2025

HF 0016 undermines our moral obligation to uphold the dignity, rights, and safety of all people, creating a culture of fear and division rather than justice and inclusion.

Conclusion: Reject HF 0016 for a Safer, Stronger Minnesota

HF 0016 is not good for Minnesota. While it does not explicitly mandate local cooperation with ICE, it prohibits local governments from limiting their involvement, effectively forcing them to comply with federal immigration enforcement. This bill would:

- Harm public safety by eroding trust between law enforcement and immigrant communities.



- Promote racial profiling by allowing government officials to report individuals without clear accountability.
- Disrupt the workforce and economy by deterring immigrants from essential industries.
- Overturn local decision-making and impose a top-down approach on cities and counties.

The North STAR Alliance urges legislators to reject HF 0016 and instead support policies that foster trust, uphold local control, and affirm the dignity of all Minnesotans—regardless of immigration status.

Sarah Silva
Policy Director

March 11, 2025

Representative Max Rymer
2nd Floor Centennial Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Senator Mark Koran
2203 Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Representative Rymer and Senator Koran,

As education organizations representing all 332 school districts across the state, we write to express our concerns regarding House File 16 and Senate File 643.

Minnesota has a long history of protecting parents' rights as well as the education data of children. The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and more specifically the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act (MGDPA) provide an essential framework for the protection of student and parent data.

H.F. 16/S.F. 643 not only weakens those protections, it has the potential to cause harm – both accidental and intentional.

Section 1 of the bill gives any school employee legal authority to share students' personally identifiable data. This provision erases essential protections. In fact, school officials would have little or no power to limit indiscriminate data sharing among employees who traditionally would not be allowed access to this protected data.

The bill has a significant potential for harm given the lack of protections for students and parents in the event of circulating false or inaccurate data. Data could be inaccurately characterized simply on an employee's perception of a student's race or ethnicity. This should not be allowed to happen.

We encourage the committee to reject the bill and maintain parents' rights over their childrens' data.

Thank you,

Minnesota School Boards Association
Minnesota Association of School Administrators
Minnesota Association of Secondary School Principals
Association of Minnesota Elementary School Principals
Association of Metropolitan School Districts
Minneapolis Public Schools
St. Paul Public Schools

March 14, 2025

Rep. Duane Quam, Chair
MN House of Representatives
Elections Finance and Government Operations

VIA EMAIL

RE: Written Comment in Opposition to HF16

Dear Chair Quam and Members of the House Elections Finance and Government Operations Committee,

We, the undersigned organizations, respectfully submit this letter in opposition to HF16. The undersigned organizations are legal and social service providers, grassroots and community advocacy organizations, unions, and religious institutions across the state of Minnesota.

The entire foundation of HF16 is based on an **erroneous underlying presumption** regarding the connection between immigration and criminal activity. HF16 assumes that increasing cooperation and interaction between state and local law enforcement and federal immigration authorities will yield better public safety outcomes through more arrests and prosecutions of alleged criminals. This presumption rests on the idea that immigrants are committing more crimes than other people. However, research has shown that **immigrants make communities more safe, not less safe**. In fact, immigrants, both documented and undocumented, are less likely to be arrested and jailed than U.S. citizens. More immigration enforcement doesn't reduce overall crime rates, and sanctuary policies don't increase crime rates.¹

HF16 will have **detrimental public safety impacts on all Minnesotans**, including U.S. citizens and people with lawful immigration status by prohibiting sanctuary-type policies at the state and local level. One of the key principles underlying separation, or sanctuary, ordinances and laws is that people who are victims of, or witnesses to, a crime should feel safe in reporting that crime to state or local law enforcement, regardless of their immigration status. If people are afraid that state or local law enforcement will share information about their immigration status with federal immigration authorities, they are less likely to report crimes and/or cooperate with criminal investigations. This hinders public safety for everyone.

HF16 will have **particularly negative impacts on vulnerable populations**, such as noncitizens who are victims of domestic abuse or human trafficking. People in these

¹ American Immigration Council, Oct. 2024, "Debunking the Myth of Immigrants and Crime," https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/sites/default/files/research/debunking_the_myth_of_immigrants_and_crime.pdf; David Bier, Cato Institute, Testimony before The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Mar. 2025, [Bier-Written-Testimony.pdf](#).

situations may be threatened with being reported to immigration authorities and subjected to deportation to prevent them from seeking assistance. HF16 would give more weight to these threats, and people being victimized by abusers or traffickers would be less likely to make reports to law enforcement, cooperate with investigations, or even seek medical treatment at a county healthcare facility. This not only continues the cycle of harm to victims, but negatively impacts public safety by making it harder to investigate and prosecute crimes.

Notably, in the last two terms, the **Minnesota Legislature has advanced bipartisan legislation lifting up the humanity and interests of vulnerable immigrants**, including provisions to enhance the U visa process for immigrant victims of crime, to align state criminal law with federal immigration law to avoid disproportionate collateral consequences of a state-level conviction, to expand access to Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS) for neglected, abandoned, or abused immigrant youth, and enhancing protections for immigrants who are vulnerable to labor trafficking. We ask that you continue this approach to supporting vulnerable immigrants and enhancing public safety for all Minnesotans through this type of measured bipartisan legislation.

HF16 will do little to promote public safety, while doing a lot to harm all Minnesotans – especially the most vulnerable.

We respectfully urge the committee to vote no on HF16.

Sincerely,

Asylum Coalition for Transition – Twin
Cities

CAP USA

The Center for Victims of Torture

Coalition of Asian American Leaders

COPAL

Fe y Justicia

ICOM

Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota

Indivisible Bemidji

Indivisible Twin Cities

Interfaith Committee for Migrant Justice -
Duluth

LatinoLEAD

Lutheran Church of the Redeemer

Minnesota Budget Project

Minnesota Council of Nonprofits

Minnesota Freedom Fund

Minnesota Immigrant Rights Action
Committee (MIRAC)

MN8

PRISM

UFCW 663

Women's March Minnesota

March 14, 2025

Rep. Duane Quam, Chair
MN House of Representatives
Elections Finance and Government Operations

VIA EMAIL

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The entire foundation of HF16 is based on an **erroneous underlying presumption** regarding the connection between immigration and criminal activity. HF16 assumes that increasing cooperation and interaction between state and local law enforcement and federal immigration authorities will yield better public safety outcomes through more arrests and prosecutions of alleged criminals. This presumption rests on the idea that immigrants are committing more crimes than other people. However, research has shown that **immigrants make communities more safe, not less safe**. In fact, immigrants, both documented and undocumented, are less likely to be arrested and jailed than U.S. citizens. More immigration enforcement doesn't reduce overall crime rates, and sanctuary policies don't increase crime rates.¹

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situations may be threatened with being reported to immigration authorities and subjected to deportation to prevent them from seeking assistance. HF16 would give more weight to these threats, and people being victimized by abusers or traffickers would be less likely to make reports to law enforcement, cooperate with investigations, or even seek medical treatment at a county healthcare facility. This not only continues the cycle of harm to victims, but negatively impacts public safety by making it harder to investigate and prosecute crimes.

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Sincerely,

Asamblea de Derechos Civiles
Asylum Coalition for Transition – Twin
Cities
CAPI USA
The Center for Victims of Torture
Coalition of Asian American Leaders
COPAL
Episcopal Church in Minnesota
Fe y Justicia
Greater Minnesota Worker Center
ICOM
Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota
Indivisible Bemidji
Indivisible Twin Cities

Interfaith Committee for Migrant Justice -
Duluth
LatinoLEAD
Legal Rights Center
Lutheran Church of the Redeemer
Minneapolis Federation of Teachers Local
59
Minnesota Budget Project
Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual
Assault
Minnesota Council of Nonprofits
Minnesota Freedom Fund
Minnesota Immigrant Rights Action
Committee (MIRAC)
MN8

PRISM

Sanctuary and Resistance Allies from
Spirit of St. Stephen Catholic Church

UFCW 663

Women Against Military Madness
Women's March Minnesota



March 17, 2025

Rep. Duane Quam, Chair
MN House of Representatives
Elections Finance and Government Operations Committee

RE: Comment in Opposition to HF16

Dear Chair Quam and Members of the Elections Finance and Government Operations,

I am writing to express Jewish Community Action's strong opposition to HF16. We signed on to [this letter](#), which you received from our partners. However, as Jewish Minnesotans who organize for economic, racial and social justice, we think it is important to share why this legislation is so dangerous to our community and to other religious minorities.

At JCA, we have been organizing for immigration justice since our founding in 1995, recognizing that the American immigration experience is foundational to the Jewish community's experience in this country. Most of our families came to Minnesota in pursuit of the American dream, and the ideals of democracy, prosperity and freedom that it represents. Many of us came as refugees, escaping violence and discrimination based on our identity - discrimination which was legal and encouraged under the repressive regimes where our families came from. We know too well what can happen when marginalized groups are targeted based on their identity. We were isolated, we were governed by fear, and we withdrew and were withdrawn from our friends, coworkers and neighbors. Policies like HF 16 contributed to our experiences of isolation and fear. We survived to make sure that kind of discrimination, violence and displacement never happens again - for anyone. We have an obligation to ensure that everyone who lives, learns and works here in Minnesota is able to do so safely and legally.

HF 16 undermines public safety for immigrants, and for all Minnesotans, and we urge you to reject this bill.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Beth Gendler", is positioned above the typed name.

Beth Gendler, Executive Director



Abigail Loesch, Attorney

www.LoeschLawOffice.com

aloesch@loeschlawoffice.com

(320) 403-2550 - tel

(320) 323-4549 - fax

P.O. Box 18522, Minneapolis, MN 55418

March 17, 2025

Dear Elections Finance and Government Operations Committee,

I write in opposition to HF 16. My name is Abigail Loesch, and I am a private immigration attorney in Minneapolis with over 10 years of experience. I represent a wide variety of clients, including individuals, families, and employers. Specifically, I help undocumented youth to renew their DACA, residents and citizens to sponsor relatives for status in the US, residents apply to become naturalized citizens, and private and public employers to sponsor foreign-born talent. I got my start at Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid in Willmar, MN, working with indigent populations, and I currently volunteer with the Volunteer Lawyers Network to help asylum seekers apply for temporary work authorization.

I have several concerns with HF 16. First of all, I disagree on principle with a bill to prohibit future prohibitions. As such, *the bill doesn't actually stand for anything*. It doesn't require conduct that provides a service or benefit to the public, nor does it prohibit conduct that protects rights, property, or safety. From my perspective, all it does is set a tone of "anti-immigrant," putting future bills (whether proscriptive or prohibitive) on the defensive back foot. If "noncooperation" legislation is introduced, then the opposition should be able to argue against it on its merits. Attempting to foreclose potential legislation preempts the kind of reasonable, rational debate on the facts that is critical to common sense law-making.

Second, it suggests that state and local government agencies and employees should be commandeered to facilitate federal immigration law enforcement. If the Committee wishes to direct state and local government to comply with data requests from federal authorities, then it should introduce a bill to that effect. I would still oppose such a bill, because I believe in the 10th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and the separation of state and federal powers described therein. Just as our three-branch government system ensures checks and balances, it's necessary for the state and federal governments to be able to balance one another so that neither becomes too powerful. *The state has its own interests to protect that might, unfortunately, conflict with federal immigration enforcement priorities*. Here are some examples that come to mind:

1. **Public schools:** requiring data sharing would undermine the ability of schools to effectively educate by eroding the trust of the families and students they serve. I have personally represented families where undocumented parents were afraid to list themselves as the legal guardians when enrolling their US citizen children.

2. **Local law enforcement:** the cooperation of undocumented victims and witnesses is often critical to the reporting and investigation of crimes in our communities. I have represented several U Visa applicants who helped put away truly violent criminals; if they had feared the officer taking their report would in turn report them as undocumented, those criminals would be walking free.
3. **Social services:** data sharing requirements would deter mixed-status households from applying for the public benefits their US citizen family members are entitled to. I have advised families many times on which public benefits they and their children are/are not eligible for, and reassured them that applying for benefits for their documented children will not result in the family's deportation.

Third, requiring police officers to report undocumented persons who have been arrested, but not yet convicted, of committing a crime of violence is extremely problematic. I fully support the rule of law, including careful, thorough, and non-discriminatory investigation and prosecution of violent crimes. If law enforcement hand over a suspect to immigration authorities, they lose the opportunity to bring the case to its full conclusion. That can lead to the possible escape of the true perpetrator, and/or the denial of closure and justice to the victim. Note that our current criminal and immigration systems already provide for the referral of convicted criminals to immigration authorities for removal proceedings. *There is already a system in place for removing violent criminals.* And referring suspects instead of convicts actually serves to complicate the removal process, because many removal charges and forms of relief are dependent on the final outcome of a criminal case.

Fourth, again, simply on principle, I reject the idea of turning state employees into immigration enforcement agents. I think it's impractical – they don't have the knowledge or the training to determine whether someone does or does not have valid immigration status, and they don't have the time outside of their regular responsibilities to devote to reporting suspected undocumented persons. And I think it's unethical – they would experience an extreme conflict of interest, reporting the very people they serve, or at the least, the very family members of the people they serve. Last, I think it's immoral – we shouldn't be asking our public servants to contribute to fear-mongering in our immigrant communities, which are, after all, *our* communities.

I've represented hundreds of immigrants and their sponsors throughout the year. I can't think of a single one who wasn't working hard to support their family and make positive contributions to their community. Consider the effort it takes to leave your home, your country, your culture, your family, just to make a new, better start for yourself in a place that doesn't even welcome you. That takes grit. I simply don't understand why we would work so hard to reject the people who want to help us build community.

Thank you for your attention to my letter.

Sincerely yours,

Abigail Loesch
Attorney



March 14, 2025

Chair Duane Quam
House Elections Finance and Government Operations Committee
Capitol G-23

Re: Opposing proposal to prohibit immigration enforcement non-cooperation ordinances and policies (HF16)

Dear Chair Quam and Committee members,

The Minnesota Council on Latino Affairs is a state agency that advises and informs the state legislature and government on issues relevant to our diverse Latine communities.

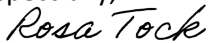
The Council wishes to express its opposition to HF16. This proposal prohibits immigration non-cooperation ordinances and policies. The bill also includes provisions that preempts any local authority from restricting access to federal agents to information regarding citizenship and immigration status, and mandates reporting undocumented offenders to federal immigration authorities.

This bill is detrimental to our constituents and counterproductive to public safety, undermining the trust between local authorities and immigrant communities. Immigrants, regardless of their legal status, should feel safe to approach local agencies without the fear of being detained or deported. Immigrants who fear deportation may be less likely to report crimes, assist in investigations, or cooperate with law enforcement.

Prohibiting non-cooperation policies that may target “suspected undocumented persons” also put immigrants at risk of deportation and family separation, harming not only the individuals affected but also the safety and wellbeing of the community as a whole. The proposed legislation will also have negative economic impacts by compromising the important contributions of the immigrant population to the Minnesota economy. A recent report by the Minnesota Chamber Foundation has found that “nearly 60% of the state’s total labor force and employment growth came from foreign-born workers from 2019-2023” and also that “Minnesota’s foreign-born population is becoming more highly educated, skilled and entrepreneurial, which could spur future innovation and productivity.”¹

Immigration non-cooperation policies that create a separation between local police work and federal immigration enforcement, contribute to the public safety and wellbeing for all Minnesotans. I urge you to carefully reconsider any steps that might prohibit the immigration non-cooperation ordinances and policies. It is crucial that we protect the rights of all Minnesotans, regardless of immigration status, and prioritize the safety and wellbeing of every member of our communities. Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. I trust that you will make the right decision in preserving policies that protect the vulnerable and promote a safer Minnesota.

Respectfully,



Rosa Tock | Executive Director

¹ The economic contributions of New Americans in Minnesota (2025) <https://www.mnchamber.com/economic-contributions-new-americans-minnesota-february-2025>

March 14th, 2025

The Honorable Duane Quam
Chair of the Elections Finance and Government Operations Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives
VIA EMAIL

RE: Written Comment in Opposition to HF16

Dear Chair Quam and Members of the House Elections and Government Operations Committee,

We are writing this letter in opposition to HF16. We believe this measure will decrease safety for the City and its residents by creating fear in community that every interaction with a city employee, including interacting with law enforcement as a victim or witness, could result in a referral to immigration authorities.

The City of Minneapolis enacted a separation ordinance over 20 years ago. The separation ordinance formally prioritizes using the City's finite resources to advance the health and safety of all people in the Minneapolis community. This local legislation makes clear that the federal government has the legal authority to enforce immigration laws in the City, but the City does not operate its programs for the purpose of enforcing federal immigration laws. The ordinance states that Minneapolis employees shall not question, arrest or detain any person for violations of federal civil immigration laws except when immigration status is an element of a crime. However, nothing in the ordinance prohibits public safety personnel from assisting federal law enforcement officers in the investigation of criminal activity involving individuals present in the United States who may also be in violation of federal civil immigration laws. City employees must comply with lawful or properly-issued subpoenas. City of Minneapolis departments and staff do not operate for the purpose of enforcing federal immigration law, but rather to provide municipal services to the Minneapolis community, regardless of immigration status. As a whole, the ordinance was advanced to increase trust between the City and its residents.

This trust is critical to public safety. The police department can only be effective when people feel comfortable contacting law enforcement when they have been victimized or when they have witnessed a crime. This is especially important for individuals who are vulnerable to exploitation, people who have been exploited and people who are victims of crime, for whom a pathway to redress must be as open and barrier free as possible.

HF16 creates the premise that any encounter with a public official may result in a referral to immigration authorities. This bill is inimical to public safety. This bill makes every encounter a potential situation where a call may be made to Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Furthermore, the provision of HF16 requiring the Attorney General or County Attorney to investigate suspected violations would redirect the limited resources from those offices towards policing the conduct of public employees, including our own City employees, for any suspected violation of the ordinance, resulting in a perpetual investigative state to ensure compliance at all levels. It also in effect requires local governments like the City to use their limited local resources to help enforce immigration law, rather than using their finite resources to keep their communities safe and healthy.

We strongly believe that this measure, if advanced, will not promote public safety, but instead will decrease community trust in government, and will make our society less safe.

For the reasons described above, we respectfully ask the committee to vote no on HF16.

Respectfully,



Mayor
Jacob Frey



Council President
Elliott Payne



Council Vice President
Aisha Chughtai



Council Member
Aurin Chowdhury



March 14, 2025

TO: Chair Quam, Chair Freiberg, and Members of the House Elections Finance and Government Operations Committee

RE: Opposition for HF 16 (Rymer)--Immigration law enforcement noncooperation ordinances and policies prohibited, use of immigration-related data provided, and county attorneys required to notify federal immigration authorities when an undocumented person is arrested for a crime of violence.

Dear Chair Quam, Chair Freiberg, and Members of the House Elections Finance and Government Operations Committee,

The City of Saint Paul stands in firm opposition to HF 16, a politically-motivated policy that threatens to undermine public safety, erode trust in our community, and strip local governments of the ability to make decisions that best serve their residents. This legislation directly attacks decades of precedent set by our separation ordinance adopted in 2004, which ensures that city employees are not required to conduct the jobs of federal immigration agents.

The sacred relationship between law enforcement and the community it serves is built on the foundational principle of mutual trust. HF 16 compromises that trust and places more barriers between our officers and our residents, which in turn makes it harder to prevent and solve crimes. This bill will make our community less safe. No family — regardless of their citizenship status — should have to choose between reporting a crime and protecting themselves. They should not fear that calling for help means putting their families in danger. Our city has long recognized this reality. We refuse to be forced into policies that break that trust.

HF 16 also discourages access to critical city services and resources that our immigrant neighbors are entitled to. Our role as public servants is to serve — it's about ensuring that every resident has access to housing, education, and emergency services. Forcing city employees to act as immigration agents deters families from seeking the services we provide, making our city less healthy, less stable, and less resilient.

Most egregiously, HF 16 is a blatant nullification of local governance. Local leaders know their communities best. We should decide how to use our public safety resources — not be forced to redirect city taxpayer dollars away from crime prevention, emergency response, and neighborhood safety initiatives to serve a federal agenda. This bill strips cities of their authority and bullies us to handing over local resources to a sector of enforcement that has never been our responsibility.

Further, involving the Attorney General or City/County Attorney in enforcing violations of the bill creates the possibility of conflicts of interest and diverts critical resources. State and local law

enforcement agencies should remain focused on their primary responsibilities rather than being tasked with federal immigration enforcement, which is not their primary jurisdiction.

Our city employees have a fundamental duty to serve our residents, regardless of background or circumstance. Their role is not to pick and choose whom they serve. Our firefighters don't check immigration papers before responding to a fire. Our police officers don't ask for documentation before protecting victims of crime. Our city workers fill potholes, provide safe spaces for youth, and provide support—regardless of citizenship status. That is our role. That is our commitment. And that will not change.

We stood against the threats from the White House to withhold federal funding from cities like Saint Paul who adhere to separation ordinances. And we stand against HF 16. We urge you to reject this harmful legislation and uphold the fundamental principle that local governments must have the authority to govern in the best interest of their communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Carter", written over a light gray rectangular background.

Melvin Carter
Mayor