

Chair Klevorn and Members of the Committee:

Hello, my name is Crystofher Gomez. I live in Willmar, MN where my family owns and runs El Tapatio. I am testifying in support of HF 3480.

This past January two tables of ICE agents came into our restaurant without uniforms. Various community members confirmed those were agents as their vehicles sat outside. When the agents were inside our business we felt like we were under surveillance.

I told my dad right away. He responded: "They're off duty. What can we do? - Just serve them." So we did.

I left the restaurant at 3:00 p.m. My parents stayed behind to close the restaurant at 8:30 p.m. That's when the worst happened, as soon as they left, they followed my parents for a block or two. They were detained near a church by a middle school.

My mom was able to call us when it happened and my sister and I showed up. If we had not come, ICE would have left my dad's truck running in the middle of the street. They handed his keys to a woman nearby and they left everything there. Children's car seats were left in the back. My mom's purse was still inside. They just took my parents and left everything behind.

In just a few days my parents were transferred to a detention facility in Texas. Another month later, my dad was released but my mom was deported. One of our cooks who had also been detained was also deported almost immediately.

My siblings and I had to take over the restaurant.

In revenue alone, we lost at least \$3,000 during the days we were closed. During the period of reduced hours — closing at 5 p.m. instead of 9 p.m. — we likely lost half our normal revenue for those days. And beyond that, business has dropped because people were and continue to be afraid to leave their homes.

I cannot begin to comprehend the economic impact of the surge on my community, it's important that we fully understand the damage. Please support an economic impact study. Thank you.