

Good afternoon. I want to thank you for considering taking steps to protect our communities.

We are witnessing a malignant abuse of power wielded under the guise of 'law enforcement.' True law enforcement, which falls under the purview of public safety, requires rigorous training in the laws they uphold, restraint in critical conditions, and the ability to resolve situations peacefully. The recent actions of ICE and Border Patrol contravene the very concept of public safety.

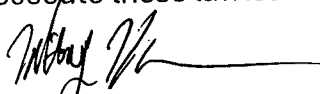
Since January 20, 2025, federal agents have beaten, tasered, tear-gassed, maimed, choked and shot at numerous people, putting even the lives of bystanders at risk. On January 7th, Renee Good—a 37-year-old U.S. citizen and mother of three—was shot and killed, her steering wheel turning away when the agent fired. Seventeen days later, Alex Pretti—a U.S. citizen and ICU nurse—was pepper-sprayed, pinned by six agents, and shot ten times over five seconds.

But the killings are only the most visible. Five-year-old Liam Ramos was used as bait to knock on his own door, then flown to a Texas detention center. His family had a pending asylum case, no deportation order. Thousands have been arrested from homes, workplaces, and schools—agents are prowling neighborhoods, circling schools, and stalking buses.

The claims that ICE targets violent criminals is a lie. The Chicago Tribune's comprehensive investigation after the DHS assault on their city found that only 1.5% of those taken had violent felony convictions. For every 100 people torn from their lives, 98 were not violent criminals. They are employees, parents, children, asylum seekers following the legal process.

But even if every person detained lacked legal status, that would not justify terrorizing communities, brutalizing families, or shredding human rights. Immigration status does not strip a person of their humanity or Constitutional protections.

Our rights are being violated. Our humanity is being tested. Our hearts are breaking for the inhumane targeting and treatment of our neighbors and friends. This must stop. LD 2106 represents a crucial step in the right direction by protecting our most sensitive community spaces—our schools, public libraries, health care facilities, and childcare facilities—from ~~federal incursion~~ federal incursion. These are places where people must feel safe to educate their children, access information, receive medical care, and ensure their children are cared for, regardless of immigration status. When federal agents invade these spaces with impunity, they destroy the fabric of our communities. I urge you to pass this legislation and to continue advancing even more measures to protect people from persecution and to prosecute these lawless thugs operating within ICE and Border Patrol.


Whitney Rohn