

## New Mexico House of Representatives

The Office of the Governor 490 Old Santa Fe Trail Room 400 Santa Fe, NM 87501

February 15, 2017

Governor Susana Martinez,

We are deeply troubled over reports of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) conducting deportation operations here in New Mexico. Among the reports that we find most disturbing are of ICE agents going door-to-door in five communities (Doña Ana, Tortugas, Las Cruces East Mesa, Chaparral, and Vado).

Moreover, ICE's actions have created a culture of fear in our communities across the state. Families are worried about sending their children to school, to church, or even to a relative's home.

This is not who we are. This cannot stand in our state. In New Mexico we value our hardworking immigrant communities and our diversity. The mere presence of ICE vans and deportation squads has already caused a ripple of fear and panic through our communities. It must stop here and now.

Therefore, we call on you, Governor Martinez, to reinforce and expand ICE's sensitive locations memo.

ICE's own policy ensures that enforcement actions do not occur at sensitive locations, such as schools, hospitals, rallies, or churches, unless exigent circumstances exist. We call on you to reassure our citizens that ICE will not have a presence at these locations.

In addition, we ask that you call on ICE to add courthouses to the list of sensitive locations. ICE's operations at New Mexico courthouses prevent residents from complying with their obligations to pay citations and appear for court hearings, and from obtaining restraining orders, marriage licenses and other essential court services.

We call on you to do the right thing by standing with New Mexico families to demand this of ICE as soon as possible. We must show our families, our businesses, and our communities that New Mexico values are keeping families together and keeping communities safe.

Respectfully,
Senator Jeff Steinborn (D-Las Cruces)
Representative Doreen Gallegos (D-Las Cruces)
Bill Somez (D-La Mesa)
James Terrany
Representative Joanne Ferrary (D-Las Cruces)
Lordola Liely Marco
Representative Rodolpho "Rudy" Martinez (D-Silver City)
Bill Melynthe
Representative Bill McCamley (D-Mesilla Park)

Representative Angelica Rubio (D-Las Cruces)

Representative Nathan Small (D-Las Cruces)