

July 9, 2019

Dear Member of Congress,

The undersigned organizations are writing to express our strong support for the *Protecting Sensitive Locations Act* of 2019, sponsored by Senator Richard Blumenthal, which would expand and codify existing federal agency guidance related to immigration enforcement actions at so-called “sensitive locations,” including places of worship, health care facilities, and schools. As organizations committed to promoting the health, economic security, educational opportunity, and overall safety and wellbeing of children, families, and individuals, we are united in our commitment to ensuring all immigrants and their families can carry out basic activities and access crucial services without fear of arrest, detention, or deportation.

Internal [agency guidelines](#) instruct federal immigration agents to avoid enforcement actions—including apprehensions, arrests, interviews, searches, and surveillance—at certain “sensitive locations” without written approval, except in exigent circumstances. This common-sense policy recognizes that immigrants and their families should be able to carry out basic activities such as attending school, accessing medical care, participating in religious or civil ceremonies, and celebrating or mourning loved ones without fear of enforcement. However, troubling reports of immigrants being arrested while performing the basic activities that sensitive locations guidelines are meant to safeguard—such as [dropping off their children at school](#) or [awaiting surgery at the hospital](#)—call into question whether the sensitive locations policy is being consistently enforced.

Legislation that codifies and expands the sensitive locations policy is particularly urgent in this current moment, when ramped-up enforcement and anti-immigrant policies have fostered a climate of fear in communities around the country. [Research](#) and [media reports](#) describe immigrant families drastically altering their daily lives to avoid contact with immigration agents. Immigrant parents are keeping their children home from school and child care and avoiding other important resources in their communities, like public libraries. [Health care](#) providers are experiencing more no-shows for regular appointments; women are delaying or forgoing prenatal care; and some families are even fearful to take their children to the hospital for emergency care. And in some communities, immigrants are fearful of [calling the police](#) for help or [appearing in court](#). This heightened anxiety and withdrawal from the community has serious consequences for the health and wellbeing of immigrants and their families, as well as broader implications for the communities where they live and work.

The *Protecting Sensitive Locations Act* would help to reassure immigrant communities of their safety in accessing these and other essential services and supports. The Act expands and improves upon existing agency guidance in important ways. Notably, by prohibiting enforcement actions within 1,000 feet of sensitive locations and expanding the list of locations deemed “sensitive,” the policy extends protections to other areas that are critical to immigrants’ safety and security. The bill also improves accountability by laying out a remedy process for individuals that are arrested or detained during enforcement actions that occur in violation of the policy and requiring ICE and CBP to regularly report violations to Congress. Removing ambiguity and increasing transparency are important steps to ensuring the sensitive locations policy is enforced appropriately and consistently across the country.

Ensuring that individuals and families have the basic services and supports they need to thrive is our nation’s imperative. Restricting immigration enforcement actions from occurring at certain locations is common-sense policy. No one should ever have to choose between obtaining medical care, going to

school, seeking justice, getting a driver's license, or celebrating or mourning a loved one and keeping their families together. We urge you stand with families and co-sponsor the *Protecting Sensitive Locations Act*.

Sincerely,

**National organizations**

1,000 Days  
Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors  
African American Ministers In Action  
Alianza Americas  
All Our Kin  
American Dance Therapy Association  
American Federation of Teachers  
American Public Health Association  
Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum  
Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF)  
Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence  
Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations  
Autistic Self Advocacy Network  
Bet Tzedek Legal Services  
BVM  
Campaign for Youth Justice  
Capuchin Province of St. Mary (N.Y and New England)  
Casa de Esperanza: National Latin@ Network for Healthy Families and Communities  
Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)  
Center for the Study of Social Policy  
CenterLink: The Community of LGBT Centers  
Children's Defense Fund  
Children's HealthWatch  
Church World Service  
Conference of Superiors of Men (Catholic)  
Council of Administrators of Special Education  
CREDO  
Defending Rights and Dissent  
Educare Learning Network  
Erikson Institute  
Fair Immigration Reform Movement (FIRM)  
Farmworker Justice  
First Five Years Fund  
First Focus Campaign for Children  
Food Research & Action Center  
Franciscan Action Network  
Franciscan Sisters of the Poor  
Freedom for Immigrants  
Freedom Network USA  
Girls Inc.  
HEAL Trafficking

Hispanic Federation  
Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters - USA-JPIC  
Human Impact Partners  
Ignatian Solidarity Network  
Immigrant and Refugee Rights Network  
Immigration Equality Action Fund  
Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility  
Jobs With Justice Education Fund  
Justice in Aging  
LatinoJustice PRLDEF  
Leadership Conference of Women Religious  
Main Street Alliance  
Media Voices for Children  
MLPB  
MomsRising  
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF)  
National Association for the Education of Young Children  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
National Association of Social Workers  
National Black Child Development Institute  
National Center for Transgender Equality  
National Council of Jewish Women  
National Education Association  
National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association  
National Health Care for the Homeless Council  
National Health Law Program  
National Housing Law Project  
National Human Services Assembly  
National Immigration Law Center  
National Institute for Reproductive Health (NIRH)  
National Justice for Our Neighbors  
National Korean American Service & Education Consortium (NAKASEC)  
National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty  
National Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Association (NMSHSA)  
National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights  
National Partnership for New Americans  
National Youth Employment Coalition  
National Women's Law Center  
ParentsTogether  
Partnership for America's Children  
Planned Parenthood Federation of America  
Positive Women's Network-USA  
Presidents' Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration  
Prevention Institute  
Project South  
Province of St. Joseph of the Capuchin Order  
Refugees International  
Rocky Mountain Center for Positive Change

Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law  
School Social Work Association of America  
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)  
Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States (SIECUS)  
Sisters of St. Francis of the Neumann Communities  
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC)  
Southern Border Communities Coalition  
SPLC Action Fund  
T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights  
Teachstone Training, LLC  
Telamon Corporation  
The Children's Dental Health Project  
The Corps Network  
The Ounce of Prevention  
The United Methodist Church - General Board of Church and Society  
Treatment Action Group (TAG)  
UnidosUS  
Union for Reform Judaism  
United Parent Leaders Action Network (UPLAN)  
United We Dream  
We Are One, Inc. - [www.WeAreOne.cc](http://www.WeAreOne.cc) - WAO  
Women's Equity Center and Action Network (WE CAN)  
Young Center for Immigrant Children's Rights  
ZERO TO THREE

## **State and local organizations**

### **Alabama**

Alabama Institute for Social Justice

### **Arizona**

Arizona Head Start Association

### **Arkansas**

Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families

### **California**

Alameda County Community Food Bank  
Alameda Health Consortium  
California Association of Food Banks  
California Food Policy Advocates  
California Immigrant Policy Center  
California WIC Association  
Child Care Law Center  
Children Now  
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)  
Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County, Inc. (CAB)

Feeding San Diego  
Food for People, the Food Bank for Humboldt County  
Imperial Valley Food Bank  
Inland Empire Immigrant Youth Collective  
Los Angeles LGBT Center  
Los Angeles Regional Food Bank  
Mendocino Community Health Clinic  
Oasis Legal Services  
Parent Voices CA  
Santa Rosa Community Health  
Services, Immigrant Rights & Education Network (SIREN)  
Sisters of the Presentation, San Francisco  
The Achievable Foundation  
The Children's Partnership  
World Relief

### **Colorado**

Center for Health Progress  
Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition  
Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition  
Grand Beginnings  
Kids First Health Care  
Tri-County Health Department  
Tri-County Health Network

### **Connecticut**

Action for Bridgeport Community Development, Inc.  
ABC Early Learning  
ABCD Early Learning Center  
Branford Early Learning Center  
Carelot Children's Center, Inc  
CELC2  
Child & Family Agency of Southeastern CT  
Children's Learning Center  
Children's Learning Centers of Fairfield County  
Charter Oak State College  
Collaborative Center for Justice  
Congregation Bnai Israel Bonim Preschool  
Connecticut Association for Human Services  
Connecticut Citizen Action Group  
Connecticut Early Childhood Alliance  
Connecticut Voices for Children  
Connecticut Working Families Party  
CT Shoreline Indivisible  
Educational Playcare  
Friends Center for Children  
Kolbe Educational Center  
Lindsey's House E.L.C.

Middlesex Coalition for Children  
Norwalk Early Childhood Council  
Precious Memories Early Childhood Learning Center  
The Children's Playhouse Inc.  
The Diaper Bank of Connecticut

**District of Columbia**

D.C. Hunger Solutions  
La Clinica del Pueblo  
RESULTS DC  
Unity Health Care  
Washington Area Women's Foundation

**Florida**

Florida Health Justice Project

**Georgia**

GEEARS: Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Students

**Hawaii**

Hawaii Association for the Education of Young Children

**Idaho**

Centro de Comunidad y Justicia  
Idaho Voices for Children

**Illinois**

Community Organizing and Family Issues (COFI)  
Illinois Action for Children  
Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights  
POWER-PAC Illinois

**Indiana**

Maple City Health Care Center, Inc  
Marion County Commission on Youth, Inc.

**Iowa**

Child and Family Policy Center

**Kansas**

Kansas Action for Children  
Kansas Appleseed

**Kentucky**

Kentucky Equal Justice Center

**Louisiana**

Louisiana Policy Institute for Children

**Maine**

Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project  
Maine Immigrants' Rights Coalition  
Maine People's Alliance  
Mano en Mano  
Portland Monthly Meeting of Friends (Quaker)

**Maryland**

Advocates for Children and Youth  
Maryland Hunger Solutions  
Montgomery County Civil Rights Coalition

**Massachusetts**

Boston Area Rape Crisis Center  
Cape Cod Coalition for Safe Communities  
City of Cambridge - Commission on Immigrant Rights & Citizenship  
City of Somerville  
Health Law Advocates, Inc.  
Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition  
Massachusetts Law Reform Institute  
Welcome Project. Inc.

**Michigan**

Michigan Council for Maternal and Child Health  
Michigan Immigrant Rights Center

**Minnesota**

Children's Defense Fund - Minnesota  
Inter-faith Coalition on Immigration, MN  
Navigate MN/Unidos MN

**Mississippi**

Mississippi Immigrants Rights Alliance

**Missouri**

Advocates for Immigrant Rights and Reconciliation  
Empower Missouri  
Guadalupe Centers  
St. Francis Community Services

**Nebraska**

Sisters of Mercy West Midwest  
Voices for Children in Nebraska

**Nevada**

Children's Advocacy Alliance  
Nevada Public Health Association

Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada

**New Jersey**

Advocates for Children of New Jersey

**New Mexico**

Catholic Charities of Southern New Mexico  
NM Center on Law and Poverty

**New York**

Advocates for Children of New York  
Cabrini Immigrant Services of NYC, Inc.  
Center for Children's Initiatives  
Children's Aid  
Children's Defense Fund - New York  
Chinese American Planning Council  
Citizens' Committee for Children of NY, inc.  
Coalition for Asian American Children and Families  
Committee for Hispanic Children and Families (CHCF)  
Community Health Care Association of New York State  
Damayan Migrant Workers Association, Inc.  
Don't Separate Families  
Early Care & Learning Council  
Food Bank For New York City  
MinKwon Center for Community Action  
New York Association for the Education of Young Children  
New York City Anti-Violence Project  
New York Lawyers for the Public Interest (NYLPI)  
Sakhi for South Asian Women  
Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy  
S.T.O.P. - Surveillance Technology Oversight Project, Inc.  
The Door  
The Legal Aid Society of New York  
The New York Immigration Coalition  
University Settlement Society of New York

**North Carolina**

Child Care Services Association

**Ohio**

Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Inc.  
Asian Services In Action, Inc.  
Children's Defense Fund-Ohio

**Oregon**

Causa Oregon  
Children First for Oregon  
Children's Institute



Mano a Mano Family Center  
Migrant Collective – Oregon  
NWGSD  
Oregon Interfaith Movement for Immigrant Justice  
Portland Network Against Racism and Islamophobia  
Portland Immigrant Rights Coalition  
Voz Workers Rights Education Project

**Pennsylvania**

PathWays PA

**Rhode Island**

Rhode Island KIDS COUNT

**South Carolina**

SC Appleseed Legal Justice Center

**Tennessee**

Black Children's Institute of Tennessee  
Siloam Health

**Texas**

American Gateways  
Austin Region Justice for Our Neighbors  
Center for Public Policy Priorities  
CHILDREN AT RISK  
Children's Defense Fund - Texas  
East Texas Justice for Our Neighbors  
San Antonio Region Justice for Our Neighbors  
Texans Care for Children  
Voices for Children of San Antonio

**Utah**

Comunidades Unidas  
Voices for Utah Children

**Vermont**

Voices for Vermont's Children

**Virginia**

Just Neighbors  
Virginia Poverty Law Center

**Washington**

Asian Counseling and Referral Service  
Asian Pacific Islander Coalition of Washington  
Entre Hermanos  
Faith Action Network

Hispanic Disability Support of SWWA  
Kadima Reconstructionist Community  
Northwest Health Law Advocates (NoHLA)  
ODYSSEY WORLD INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION SERVICES  
Seattle Immigrant Rights Action Group  
Surge Reproductive Justice  
Wallingford Indivisible  
Washington State Association of Head Start and ECEAP  
Washington State Parent Ambassadors

**Wisconsin**

Co-Chair Temple Beth El Immigrant Rights Action Team  
Community of Hope United Church of Christ  
End Domestic Abuse WI  
First Congregational UCC  
First Unitarian Society Madison Social Justice Ministry  
Hunger Task Force  
Kids Forward  
Planned Parenthood Advocates of Wisconsin  
Shaarei Shamayim  
Temple Beth El  
Tippecanoe Church PCUSA  
Wisconsin Early Childhood Association  
Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice