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, detainment, 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 alter 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
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
T’ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights
Teachstone Training, LLC
Telamon Corporation
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 - 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 Dental Health Project
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