

Judiciary Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No: SB-91 / [Bill Status](#) / [Public Hearing Testimony](#)

AN ACT ENHANCING THE INVESTIGATIVE AUTHORITY OF THE INSPECTOR
Title: GENERAL AND ESTABLISHING PROTECTED AREAS.

Vote Date: 3/23/2026

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 3/9/2026

File No.: 491

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Judiciary Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill is a response to the federal government rescinding its longstanding “protected areas” policy that limited immigration enforcement at hospitals, schools, and religious buildings. It codifies the previous “protected areas” policy into state law by requiring federal immigration officials to provide a judicial warrant in order to detain, arrest, or otherwise take an individual into custody in a protected area, with certain exceptions that were enumerated in Connecticut’s Trust Act and for exigent circumstances. Additionally, this bill specifies that the Inspector General will have the authority to investigate an expanded class of federal law enforcement officers who use deadly force within Connecticut.

SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE:

The substitute language narrows the scope of change for the definition of peace officer to two statutes, removing reference to section 531-3. It also removes references to “local” and “state” law enforcement units to align the bill with federal Supreme Court rulings.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Ned Lamont, Governor, State of Connecticut: Community members are fearful and concerned about their safety when going to school, seeking medical care or accessing services at government buildings. The bill codifies the “protected areas” that federal law enforcement previously maintained as good public policy. The bill specifies that the Inspector General has the authority to investigate anyone who violates state laws.

Patrick Griffin, Chief State's Attorney, Division of Criminal Justice: Support the bill because it would align state law with federal definitions of law enforcement agents and ensure consistent obligations across federal, state, and local actors. The testimony also states that the Division will review arrests under the bill and pursue charges when appropriate.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Michelle Abt, Stamford Indivisible: Michelle Abt supports the bill because Connecticut should ensure that schools, places of worship, healthcare facilities, and other community spaces remain safe and accessible for all residents. Many immigrant families live in fear of immigration enforcement in everyday public spaces. Fear of detention can discourage people from attending school, seeking medical care, or participating in religious life. She argues that the bill should explicitly protect immigrant communities by strengthening safeguards in protected areas and requiring clear policies and judicial warrants for enforcement actions.

Susan Adamsen, Building One Community: Susan Adamsen supports the bill because Connecticut should ensure that schools, healthcare facilities, places of worship, and other community spaces remain safe and accessible for residents. The fear of immigration enforcement can discourage people from seeking services, working, or sending their children to school, creating social and economic harm in communities. Alleged civil rights violations and concerns about being detained can have a profound impact on families and neighborhoods. She argues that the bill should include stronger protections for immigrant communities, including clear policies for staff at protected locations and a requirement for judicial warrants before enforcement actions occur in those spaces.

Chris Altrock, Director of Philanthropy, Connecticut Institute for Refugees, and Immigrants (CIRI): Chris Altrock supports the bill because it would help ensure that schools, healthcare facilities, places of worship, and government buildings remain safe places where people can access essential services. Increased fear of immigration enforcement has discouraged some families from sending children to school, seeking medical care, or participating in court proceedings, which can affect both individuals and the broader community. He argues that the bill would provide clarity and reassurance that these institutions remain accessible and supportive spaces for Connecticut residents.

Liza Andrews, Vice President of Government & Public Relations, CT Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV): Liz Andrews and CCADV support Section 2 of the bill because establishing protected areas such as domestic violence shelters and family justice centers would help ensure survivors can safely access services. Representing a network of 18 organizations within the coalition that provide crisis response, shelter, counseling, and advocacy to thousands of victims each year, she explains that fear of immigration enforcement has long discouraged undocumented survivors from seeking help. Survivors may remain in abusive situations or avoid contacting service providers out of concern that involvement with law enforcement could lead to immigration consequences for themselves or their families. Creating protected areas would help survivors access essential safety and support services without fear of immigration enforcement.

Elaine Balsley, Director, Birth to Three: Supports the bill because parents and daycare staff are concerned.

Carina Bandhauer, Task Force Founder and Coordinator, UndocuAlly: Supports the bill based on studies showing that immigration enforcement and raids can increase anxiety among children and affect school attendance and performance. They share how incidents in which ICE activity near a university campus caused students to panic, avoid campus, and in some cases not re-enroll.

Mark Benigni, Superintendent, Meriden Public Schools: Supports the bill because it would establish protected areas such as public schools where enforcement actions require a judicial warrant. He also reports concerns that fear of enforcement activity may cause families to keep children home from school; in Meriden Public Schools, there has been an observed decline in enrollment among multilingual learners. The bill will provide clear procedures for staff to follow if federal agents appear.

Abie Benitez, Board of Education Member, City of New Haven: Supports the bill because every human should feel safe in hospitals, public buildings, and schools.

Leslie Blatteau, President, New Haven Federation of Teachers Local 933: Supports SB 91 because it would help protect access to schools and other essential services and align with efforts to improve school attendance. She notes that when people are afraid to enter public spaces, it affects education, public health, and safety across the state.

Betsy Bowen, CONECT: Supports the bill because all students and their families should be free to attend school without fear of being apprehended. They should also be able to get healthcare, worship, and seek social services without risking their lives.

Susan Bramhall, New Haven Immigrant Coalition: Supports SB 91 because Connecticut should protect immigrant communities and ensure safe access to schools, healthcare facilities, places of worship, and government buildings. She also calls for measures such as written response policies and judicial warrants for enforcement actions in protected locations.

Amy Brazauski, New Haven Federation of Teachers: Supports the bill because fear related to immigration enforcement affects students' mental health and ability to focus in school. In January 2025, the New Haven Board of Education instituted an ICE policy for school staff to follow in the event ICE officials attempted to engage with students on campus or seek information from professionals: she notes that students benefitted greatly from the knowledge and reassurance about their safety at school. Statewide protections could offer similar relief to students and school staff in other districts.

Sandra Bulmer, Interim President, Southern Connecticut State University: Supports the bill because it recognizes that colleges and universities are unique public institutions whose educational mission depends upon access, trust, and continuity. The bill would establish clear expectations and legal standards for enforcement activity in protected areas such as college campuses. Students are better able to succeed academically when they feel safe accessing classes, services, and campus activities. Clear rules in state law can reduce confusion and help institutions respond appropriately to enforcement situations on campus.

Emily Byrne, Executive Director, Connecticut Voices for Children: Supports the bill because it may help restore community calm, improve health and educational outcomes, and rebuild religious centers as safe spaces. They also recommend strengthening the bill by narrowing the definition of “exigent circumstance,” improving enforcement mechanisms for wrongful detention, and requiring institutions to adopt written response policies.

Jacqueline Cabrera, CT Working Families Power: Supports the bill because fear of immigration enforcement in Danbury has caused families to avoid schools, healthcare, and other essential services. Some families have even withdrawn children from school and switching to homeschooling due to immigration enforcement fears. She says protected areas would help ensure people can safely access education, medical care, government services, and civic activities.

Perla Vanessa Cardoso, Masos Unidas: Supports the bill because students and parents are scared when going to school or to pray because of immigration enforcement. Some parents are even afraid to drop their children off at school because they are concerned about being detained on the way. She notes these issues create mental health issues and anxiety for students. She also describes a personal experience in which ICE detained her father outside their home and her brother in a relative’s backyard.

Margaret Casciato, CONECT: Supports the bill because it gives the state an opportunity to clarify how certain spaces should be treated and to ensure that residents can safely access essential institutions such as schools, places of worship, healthcare facilities, and more. Establishing clear protections for these areas helps strengthen trust and ensures that everyone in Connecticut can participate in daily life without fear.

Laura Cassenti: Supports the bill because policies are needed to protect individuals from government overreach and ensure rights are respected.

Eric Catey, Working Families Party: Supports the bill because federal immigration enforcement has been violent and indiscriminate and has resulted in immigrants and U.S. citizens being assaulted, detained, or killed. He notes that enforcement actions occurring near schools and medical facilities have forced children to witness violence and caused immigrants to avoid essential services.

Dalila Cela, CT Students for a Dream: Supports the bill because migrants need safe places to study, seek medical care, and practice their faith. She also emphasizes her personal experience as a migrant student and frames the issue as one of dignity, justice, and recognizing the humanity of migrants.

Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA): Appreciates the goal(s) of the bill but has concerns about how Section 2 is written. The Association states its language is too broad and could interfere with routine policing outside of civil immigration enforcement. The bill would require healthcare facilities to designate staff to review law enforcement documentation and determine whether detention or arrest is lawful: many healthcare facilities do not always have staff with the legal expertise available to make those determinations. It could also place healthcare workers in adversarial situations with armed law enforcement and conflict with HIPAA requirements.

Alberto Cifuentes Jr., Assistant Professor, Southern Connecticut State University:

Supports the bill because it would restrict federal immigration enforcement in sensitive locations and require judicial warrants for enforcement actions in those areas. He notes that expanding the Inspector General's authority would help investigate alleged excessive force and unlawful detention by federal immigration officers.

David Cohen, Building One Community: Supports the bill because law enforcement actions at sensitive locations have disrupted civic institutions and discouraged people from using schools, hospitals, and places of worship. He argues that protecting these locations is necessary to preserve access to education, healthcare, and religious practice in Connecticut.

Chelsea Connery, Staff Attorney, Connecticut Fair Housing Center: Supports the bill because schools, hospitals, and places of worship should remain safe places where people can access essential services without fear. She cites research indicating that immigration enforcement policies can reduce trust in law enforcement and negatively affect educational outcomes such as student achievement, attendance, and perceptions of school safety.

Kaylee Cordova, CT Students for a Dream: Supports the bill because fear of immigration enforcement in her community has caused anxiety for immigrant families and discouraged people from attending school, church, and other daily activities. She argues that establishing protected areas would help ensure that immigrants can safely access schools, healthcare facilities, places of worship, and other community spaces.

Laura Cunningham, New Haven Federation of Teachers Local 933: Supports the bill because schools and other community spaces should remain safe and accessible for students and families without fear of immigration enforcement. She notes that fear of detention and deportation can harm students' mental health and education and describes an incident in which a New Haven student was detained by ICE for over a month.

Kelly Ennis-Davis, Director, Rose City Learning Center (RCLC): Supports the bill because fear of immigration enforcement has caused some adult learners in workforce and English-language programs to miss classes or avoid leaving their homes. She argues that establishing protected areas would help ensure that schools and community organizations remain accessible so students can continue their education and workforce training.

Frederic De Pourcq, Managing Director, Junta for Progressive Action: Supports the bill because it offers a solution by creating clear "safe spaces" for everyday life and integration, while still prioritizing the removal of violent criminals. He notes that under this bill, essential services - schools, hospitals, clinics, local social services, and places of worship - remain off-limits to routine immigration enforcement. This means that families can seek medical care, education, food, and shelter without fear that doing so will jeopardize their right to stay together here.

Stephanie Deceus, Vice President, SEIU District 1199 New England: Supports the bill because it would help protect public health, community trust, and human dignity while ensuring people can go to work, school, and places of worship without fear. She argues that Connecticut has a responsibility to provide stability and protect working families in response to federal immigration enforcement actions.

Kate Dias, President, Connecticut Education Association: Supports the bill because enforcement actions in schools and other sensitive locations have created fear among immigrant students and families and disrupted education. She notes the bill would restrict enforcement activities in locations such as schools, playgrounds, medical facilities, and places of worship while allowing actions under judicial warrants and in certain serious criminal circumstances.

Liz Dupont-Diehl, CT Citizen Action Group: Supports the bill but argues it should be strengthened to require judicial warrants for enforcement actions in protected locations and to narrow exceptions that could weaken those protections. She also recommends adding courthouses to the list of protected areas, requiring institutions to adopt written response policies, and creating mechanisms for individuals wrongfully detained to challenge those actions.

Brian Donahue, Founder, Not Just Us: Supports the bill because families are reportedly avoiding schools, medical providers, courts, and places of worship due to fear of detention or deportation. He states that the bill would help ensure families can access these institutions without fear of being taken into custody.

Jill Drew, Steering Committee Director, Vecinos Seguros 2: Supports the bill because it would prevent ICE from making arrests in locations such as courts, schools, hospitals, and places of worship. He argues that these locations should be protected areas, so immigrants are not arrested when attending court hearings, taking children to school, or accessing services.

Justin Elicker, Mayor, City of New Haven: Justin Elicker, Mayor of New Haven, supports the bill because he recent federal immigration enforcement has been “recklessness and chaos” that is inconsistent with public safety goals. He states that the bill would protect constitutional rights and maintain public safety by ensuring residents feel safe interacting with local government, police, and community services, and by establishing protected areas where people can access schools, healthcare, and other resources without fear, particularly in the absence of a judicial warrant.

David Englert: Supports the bill because immigrants “enhance our country” and “should not be abused” and must receive **due process in our legal system**. He also recommends changes to strengthen the bill, including requiring judicial warrants signed by a judge, narrowing enforcement provisions, requiring written response policies, and allowing individuals to challenge detention or arrest.

Michael Espelin: fear related to immigration status can prevent patients from accessing mental health care, leading to worsening symptoms and serious outcomes. She notes that protected areas would help ensure patients feel safe seeking care and improve access to healthcare services.

Maritza Estremera Jimenez, Secretary, Bridgeport Board of Education: Supports the bill because protecting families helps children succeed in schools and communities and benefits the broader community. She also recommends strengthening the bill by requiring judicial warrants, limiting exceptions, establishing clear policies, and allowing individuals to challenge wrongful detention.

Maegan Faitsch, Staff Attorney, Connecticut Legal Services: Supports the bill because fear of immigration enforcement is discouraging individuals from entering government buildings and seeking essential services, causing some to go without medical care, legal protection, and other assistance. She notes it would help ensure safe and equal access to these services in community spaces.

Kyle Feliciano, Community Relations and Advocacy Director, HAVEN Free Clinic: Supports the bill because immigration enforcement discourages patients from seeking medical care and reduces preventive checkups. She notes that patients delay or avoid care due to fear of enforcement at clinics, leading to more severe, preventable illnesses. Missed appointments and increased case complexity strain limited clinical resources and increase costs. She argues that establishing clinics as protected areas would allow patients to seek care safely and let providers focus on treatment.

Joelle Fishman, Chair, Connecticut Communist Party USA: Supports the bill because ensuring safety and access to essential services should be the responsibility of state and local government. She mentions that fear of immigration enforcement has led community members to organize informal support networks, such as providing rides to court and medical appointments, to help individuals avoid potential encounters with ICE. This is a gap that the state should address.

John Fitzpatrick: Supports the bill because it takes necessary steps to protect communities during this difficult time. He cites how courts have ruled over 4,400 times that ICE has detained people illegally and violated nearly 100 court orders to demonstrate a need for stronger safeguards such as response policy requirements and legal means to challenge detention. This calls for the state to act with coherence, with legislation, implementation, and public messaging that come together to form a unified whole in response to immigration enforcement.

Peter Fousek, CT Tenants Union: Supports the bill because fear of detention is preventing people from accessing healthcare, attending school or work, and participating in civic activities. He notes this fear leads to negative consequences such as worsening health conditions, unsafe housing, and reduced community participation, and that the bill would help ensure safe access to these spaces.

Seth Freeman, President, Congress of Connecticut Community Colleges, SEIU Local 1973: Supports the bill because it establishes clear rules for enforcement actions in protected areas. This helps maintain access to schools, healthcare facilities, and other essential institutions. He argues that the bill reduces fear and disruption in educational and workplace settings while providing clear procedures for handling enforcement actions.

Timothy Gabriele, Chair, North Haven Democratic Town Committee: Supports the bill because it would protect community spaces such as schools, healthcare facilities, and courthouses from disruptive immigration enforcement actions.

Carol Gale, Hartford Federation of Teachers: Supports the bill because immigration enforcement has caused fear among families, leading to increased absenteeism and concerns about student safety in schools. She contends that schools and other essential

spaces should be protected so individuals can access education and services without fear of detention.

Sarah Ganong, State Director, Connecticut Working Families Power: Supports the bill because it would restrict immigration enforcement in sensitive locations and allow individuals to access essential services without fear. She also recommends strengthening the bill by requiring judicial warrants, limiting exceptions, establishing written response policies, and allowing individuals to challenge wrongful detention.

Andrea Gartner, Majority Legislative Leader, Danbury City Council: Supports the bill because it would ensure that key community institutions remain safe and accessible for residents without fear. She also connects her support to concerns about due process and the broader impact of fear on communities, informed by her family's experiences with authoritarian governments.

Daphne Geismar, Jewish Community Alliance for Refugee Resettlement (JCARR): Supports the bill because refugees in her community experience fear and uncertainty about accessing daily activities such as school, work, and meetings. She notes that establishing protected areas would allow these individuals to feel safe and focus on building their lives and contributing to their communities.

Sierra-Marie Gerfao, Connecticut Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Ministry: Supports the bill because Connecticut should ensure that spaces are truly safe and accessible for all people. She mentions that people are fearful in the practice of their religions and do not feel safe entering places of worship. Fear has led to children being afraid to go to school and experiencing loss of learning. People are avoiding government buildings, courts, and healthcare facilities because they do not feel safe. Safe spaces are essential to the free practice of religion as constitutionally provided.

Chelsea-Infinity Gonzalez, Policy Director, ACLU-CT: Supports this bill because it would help ensure that essential community spaces remain accessible without fear of enforcement actions, which currently discourage people from seeking services. She also emphasizes the need to strengthen the bill by clarifying enforcement standards and providing individuals with clear legal remedies to challenge unlawful detention.

Robbie Goodrich, Executive Director, RACCE Inc.: Supports the bill because schools are already heavily securitized through policing and surveillance, while immigration enforcement operations have become increasingly dangerous and jeopardize safety. He adds that the bill would strengthen protections for school campuses and establish clearer requirements such as judicial warrants, written policies, and mechanisms to challenge wrongful detention.

Karen Buenavista Hanna, Hearing Youth Voices: Supports the bill because fear of immigration enforcement is significantly impacting daily life in her community. She describes families being afraid to leave their homes, students avoiding school and church, and neighborhoods becoming empty. Schools, churches, and other essential spaces should be safe places where people can go without fear.

Ed Hawthorne, President, Connecticut AFL-CIO: Supports the bill because it is a good beginning to keep ICE out of our 2 schools, colleges and universities, houses of worship,

municipal and state buildings, health care facilities, social services agencies, and other public places where communities gather. He also recommends strengthening the bill by requiring judicial warrants, limiting exceptions, establishing written response policies, and allowing individuals to challenge wrongful detention.

Sam Arevalo-Hoefer: Supports the bill and notes that immigration enforcement has caused fear, anxiety, and concerns about safety, particularly among students. She argues that the bill would help ensure educational and community spaces remain protected so individuals can learn and gather without fear.

Benjamin Huaracha, Make the Road CT: Supports the bill and states that protected areas such as hospitals, schools, and places of worship are critical spaces where people go to improve or even save their lives. Fear of immigration enforcement and profiling has led students to avoid school and community members to feel unsafe in everyday spaces like churches. He also recommends strengthening the bill by requiring judicial warrants, establishing clear response policies, limiting exceptions, and providing mechanisms to challenge wrongful detention.

Calder Hudson, Make the Road CT: Supports the bill to protect against ICE raids. He recalls having personally observed ICE detaining individuals at courthouse steps in Middletown more than once, even after laws were enacted to prohibit such actions. Similar incidents have been reported across multiple Connecticut communities, suggesting a broader pattern of noncompliance. He argues that ICE agents are not adhering to current legal restrictions and that existing laws are insufficient, emphasizing the need for stronger protections to prevent these enforcement practices.

Testimony of members of the Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance (GHIAA):

Jim Adams Carol Barry Peter Benner Elaine Betoncourt Linda Bronstein Thomas Buckley Lisa Chandler Mario Chiapetti Robert Dakers Sue Fulleton Rev. Jocelyn Gardner Spencer Christine Graesser Marilyn Greenberg Patti Hoppin Andrea Igdalsky Robert Janis Michael Johnson Eleta Jones Cynthia Kozak Paul LaMonaca Mary LaPorte Judy Lederer Judith Levy David Liscinsky Sherry Manetta William Marut Stanley Maticka Holly McGrath Natalie Mendes Marie Pham Lindsay Plath Kerri Provost Karen Robinson Katherine Salk Mary Schoonmaker Elaine Shapiro Jeffrey Stein Carolyn Stockman Ellen Thomson Jane Torrey Monica van Beusekom Sandra Wood Forand Jane Zande

They each provided testimony in support of SB the bill, noting that fear of immigration enforcement has discouraged some immigrant residents from accessing essential services such as healthcare, education, religious services, and community support programs. They said individuals have avoided medical appointments, school attendance, places of worship, and social service organizations due to concerns about potential enforcement actions. They argued that the bill would help ensure that schools, hospitals, faith institutions, and community organizations remain accessible without fear of immigration enforcement without a judicial warrant, and that enforcement activity in these locations can undermine trust in institutions and disrupt care and support systems relied upon by immigrant and refugee communities.

Testimony of members of Danbury Unites for Immigrants:

***Nina Allred Sheila Cole Susan David Sofia Gans Sydney Hansen Karen Hunter
Joan Lucia Pamela Tassiello***

They each provided testimony in support of the bill, arguing that fear of immigration enforcement discourages some immigrant residents from accessing services such as schools, healthcare, courts, and places of worship. They argued that such fear can affect children's wellbeing, discourage victims and witnesses from cooperating with authorities, and disrupt community life. Testifiers said the bill would help keep these institutions accessible and provide clearer rules around enforcement. Some also called for stronger safeguards such as judicial warrant requirements and written response policies for institutions.

Testimony of members of Connecticut for All:

***Isaac Bibeau Thomas Connolly Leticia Cotto Melissa Cyr Rachel Kohn Constanza
Segovia Susann Thiel Maryann Mueller***

They each provided testimony in support of the bill, stating that policies establishing protected areas would help ensure residents can access schools, healthcare facilities, places of worship, and social services without fear of immigration enforcement. They argued that such protections are important for safeguarding civil liberties, maintaining access to essential services, and improving community safety. Several also recommended strengthening the bill by requiring judicial warrants for enforcement actions in protected locations, narrowing exceptions, adopting written response policies for institutions, and allowing individuals who are wrongfully detained to challenge those actions.

Testimony of members of CONECT:

***Meg Bloom Margaret Casciato John Hanrahan Mona Colwell Susan Noble Fr. James
Manship***

They each submitted testimony in support of the bill, stating it would help clarify protections for certain community locations and ensure residents can safely access essential institutions such as schools, healthcare facilities, places of worship, and social services. They argued that establishing clear protections for these areas would strengthen trust in public institutions and allow students, families, and other residents to participate in daily activities without fear of immigration enforcement.

Testimony of members of New Haven Federation of Teachers Local 933:

Leslie Blatteau Jeremy DeLuca Julia Miller

They each submitted testimony in support of the bill, stating that it would help ensure schools and other essential community spaces remain accessible to students and families. They argued that fear of immigration enforcement can discourage people from entering public spaces, which may negatively affect school attendance, students' mental health, and broader public health and safety. Testimony also referenced incidents in which immigration enforcement actions involving students or their family's disrupted education and created anxiety within school communities.

Testimony of members of Hartford Deportation Defense

***Laurel Grimes Leticia Cotto Jaritza Mogollan Renae Reese Hannah Sims
Sam Sommers Ruth V. William Yeterian***

They each submitted testimony in support of the bill, explaining that it would keep ICE out of schools, workplaces, healthcare facilities, places of worship, and other community spaces where people access essential services. These protections would allow residents to go to work and seek support without fear of immigration enforcement disrupting their lives. They also emphasize that the bill would help ensure community members can safely participate in daily activities and access services without fear.

Testimony of members of SEIU 32BJ: *Ciro Gutierrez Manuel Estrada*

They each submitted testimony in support of the bill, stating that workers are scared to come forward and share stories of troubles at work out of fear of retaliation because of their status or background. They hear of ICE sightings in their cities and stay home to be safe. This makes it more difficult for the union to help workers who are being taken advantage of by an employer.

Anonymous 1 – Supports the bill because everyone deserves to go about their lives without living in fear.

Anonymous 153 - Supports the bill because everyone in our state, regardless of immigration status, deserves to access essential services without fear.

Anonymous 155 – Supports the bill because everyone should feel safe when going to receive medical care, pick up food from a pantry, or attend a religious service.

Anonymous 172 – Supports the bill because it seeks to protect schools, places of worship, healthcare facilities, government buildings, and other community gathering spaces from intimidation and enforcement actions by masked or armed agents. They contend that everyone deserves to go about their lives without fear.

Anonymous 235 - Supports the bill and describes instances where immigration enforcement has occurred near schools and food pantries, leading some families to avoid school and basic services. They argue that detaining people without a warrant or cause violates individual rights and dignity.

Anonymous 255 – Supports the bill and describes fear among students, families, and community members due to immigration enforcement and surveillance. They state that surveillance threatens privacy and safety and suggests strengthening SB 91 by requiring judicial warrants for enforcement actions and providing ways to challenge unjust actions.

Anonymous 274 – Supports the bill because hard working people who contribute taxes and talent to the state should not have to fear being detained by government agents while going to houses of worship or schools.

Anonymous 275 – Supports the bill because people should be able to attend school or houses of worship without fear of being detained.

Anonymous 275 – Supports the bill because people should be able to attend school or houses of worship without fear of being detained.

Anonymous 283 - Supports the bill because it would create protected areas and states that schools, places of worship, healthcare facilities, and government buildings should remain safe and accessible spaces. Fear related to immigration enforcement has caused some families to avoid school, healthcare, and other services, which can affect mental health, education, and community stability.

Anonymous 300 - Supports the bill because Connecticut must be able to protect all its residents and uphold constitutional rights.

Anonymous 312 - Supports the bill because aggressive federal immigration enforcement has created fear among immigrant families about accessing schools, healthcare, courts, and places of worship. They note this fear affects community participation, economic and educational activities, and mental health, and urges stronger protections including judicial warrants and clear policies for protected locations.

Anonymous 347 – Supports the bill because there is a need to protect communities from government overreach and violence. They argue that schools, houses of worship, hospitals, libraries, and other sensitive locations have long been places where people can gather without fear of persecution from ICE and other government agencies.

Anonymous 355 – Supports the bill and describes concerns about the conduct of federal immigration officers, including excessive use of force and enforcement actions occurring in sensitive locations such as schools, healthcare facilities, and places of worship. They contend that some individuals with legal status fear detention or harm and argues that Connecticut should establish protected areas and require judge-signed warrants for enforcement actions.

Anonymous 375 - Supports the bill because schools, hospitals, places of worship, government buildings, and community organizations should be safe places where everyone can access essential services without fear.

Anonymous 379 - Supports the bills because locations such as schools, hospitals, churches, and government buildings should be protected spaces. They note that fear of immigration enforcement has discouraged people in their community from attending school, seeking medical care, or appearing in court.

Anonymous 388 – Supports the bill because it will make communities safer.

Anonymous 389 – Supports the bill because sanctuaries are sacred and must not be invaded by agents targeting the exact people whom faith calls on communities to cherish, protect, and serve.

Anonymous 398 - Supports the bill because it ensures that people in Connecticut can access essential services, exercise their rights, and move through their communities without fear of surveillance, unjust enforcement, or civil rights violations.

Anonymous 471 – Supports the bill because government buildings, schools, hospitals, and churches should all remain safe spaces. Everyone has a right to visit these places without fear of being detained or persecuted.

Anonymous 676 – Supports the bill because it is important to make sure the people of Connecticut can go to work, school, and their place of worship without fear.

Anonymous 838 - Supports the bill because schools, hospitals, places of worship, and community organizations should remain safe places where people can access services without fear of immigration enforcement. They also recommend strengthening the bill by requiring judicial warrants for enforcement actions, limiting exceptions, establishing staff response policies, and providing ways to challenge wrongful detention.

Anonymous 86 - Supports SB 91 because schools, places of worship, healthcare organizations and government areas should be off limits for ICE.

Anonymous - Supports the bill because Connecticut should clearly protect students, families, and communities. They state that for a community to be truly safe, every resident must feel empowered to engage with local services. When schools, hospitals, and places of worship are recognized as protected zones, families can seek medical care and report crimes without the paralyzing fear of deportation.

Anonymous – Supports the bill because protected areas such as schools, places of worship, hospitals, and community centers should be spaces where families can access services without fear. They note that when people are afraid to go to these places, it can prevent children from attending school, families from seeking medical care, and communities from receiving the support they need. This can have a profound impact on individuals' mental health and community life.

Anonymous - Supports the bill because state law must protect people and treat them as human beings.

N.S.:This individual submitted testimony in support of this legislation noting that the state should pass policies that protect Connecticut residents to ensure they can go to work, schools, stores, and places of worship without fear. They stated that the government should be going after known criminals but individuals who are living their lives and contributing to society should not be targets of the government when there are real "bad guys" to be dealt with. They expressed that our system is not perfect but fixing it in an orderly way should include moral and ethical actions by the government.

Benjamin Sachs, Professor Emeritus, University of Connecticut: Professor Sachs submitted testimony in support of this legislation sharing that this legislation along with HB 5449 and SB 397 would assure residents of the state can access essential services, exercise their rights, and move around their communities without fear of surveillance, unjust enforcement, or civil rights violations. He noted that those goals are important to him as a naturalized immigrant whose family escaped those dangers and probable death in the Holocaust. He added that naturalized immigrants must pay that debt forward to newer immigrants coming to the United States for the same reasons he and his family did, as they deserve to live in communities where privacy is respected, their rights are protected, and their

government is accountable. Professor Sachs expressed this legislation would grant all the state's residents' safe passage to places that assure their health, so they can become secure and productive citizens of the state and country.

Katherine Salk, GHIAA: Mrs. Salk submitted testimony in support of this legislation expressing that her faith requires her to welcome the stranger and protect the outcast. She added that she is supportive of this legislation as it protects houses of worship and religious freedom from not being violated by ICE or any other entity intruding except in limited circumstances like a judicial warrant.

James Salsich
Megan Scharrer
Dr. Benjamin Schwartz
Anonymous SCSU –
MSW Student
Ben Scudder
Constanza Segovia
Julian Shafer, NEA-
Danbury, Vice President
Marcy Shinbaum
Jennifer Simon
Cynthia Stretch, CSU-
AAUP, VP

Donna Swarr
Pam Tassiello, Danbury
Unites for Immigrants,
Member
Igone Emily Thomas
Daniela Valverde
Vazquez
Susan Van Kleef
Rebecca Wasilewski
Adam Waters
David Weinreb, New
Haven Federation of

Teachers, Magnet
Resource Teacher
Marcus Wilkinson
Leslie J. Yerman
William Yeterian,
Hartford Deportation
Defense
Stacey Zimmerman,
SEIU CT State Council,
Deputy Director

The individuals above submitted testimony in support of this legislation sharing that protecting sensitive locations help ensure everyone in our communities can access essential services without fear. They stated that this bill could be strengthened by requiring a judicial warrant signed by a judge, rather than administrative paperwork, as it ensures enforcement decisions receive appropriate legal oversight. They added that this legislation should avoid broad exceptions that could allow protections to be bypassed. They suggested schools, hospitals, places of worship, and community organizations be required to adopt clear written response policies, so staff know how to respond if ICE agents were to appear. They recommend individuals who are wrongfully detained in protected locations should have a meaningful way to challenge that detention and seek relief.

Stuart Savelkoul, Chief of Staff, AFT Connecticut, AFL-CIO: Stuart submitted testimony in support of this legislation pointing out that schools, hospitals, clinics, and public institutions are places that only function properly when people feel safe walking through the doors of those places. He added when people feel worried about engaging with their school communities, the effects ripple throughout the educational environment, as students cannot focus on learning. Whereas teachers and staff try to support a student carrying an enormous amount of stress that has nothing to do with the classroom. He stated that the same dynamics exist in healthcare settings. Stuart expressed that this legislation reinforces that certain spaces must remain accessible to everyone for communities to function and establishing clear rules around enforcement in protected locations helps maintain trust in the institutions that serve the public.

Kristen Malloy-Scanlon, West Haven Federation of Teachers and School Nurses, Local 1547, At-Large Vice President, AFT, CT: Kristen submitted testimony in support of this

legislation sharing that educators work to ensure schools are places where students are safe, supported, and ready to learn. However, that becomes impossible when students and families experience fear, for themselves or their loved ones, when coming to school. Kristen expressed that when immigration enforcement occurs near schools, there are broader implications beyond immigration policy. She noted that students become anxious, distracted, and afraid to attend class, families keep students' home and disengage with the school community, and the learning environment is disrupted by fear and uncertainty. She emphasized that schools must remain places dedicated to education, not where children worry. Kristen added that as educators and members of the union, the West Haven Federation of Teachers and School Nurses believes every child deserves the opportunity to learn in an environment that prioritizes safety, dignity, and trust. She emphasized it is teachers' jobs to teach and support students, not manage fear created by enforcement actions near classrooms.

Rachel Schmidt: Rachel submitted testimony in support of this legislation pointing out that the federal government has violated people's constitutionally protected rights, destabilized communities, cut funding, and threatened public safety. She added that ICE detentions have ballooned in the past year, with 75% of those detained not being convicted of any crime and less than 14% being charged or convicted for violent criminal offenses. Rachel stated that this year, 10 people have died in ICE detention, and noted that Renee Good and Alex Pretti were not the first citizens to be shot and killed by ICE under the Trump Administration, but the first was Ruben Ray Martinez, last March. She expressed that Judges have ruled more than 4,400 times since October that the Trump administration's detaining of non-citizens was unlawful.

Mary Ellen Schoonmaker: Mary Ellen submitted testimony noting that the shadow of ICE's presence has forced many immigrants and their families to change how they live, with many avoiding doctors, schools, churches, or grocery stores out of fear of being confronted or arrested and taken away. She shared that she supports this bill because all people who live in the state deserve access to essential services without fear.

Dr. Jeffrey Schwartz: Dr. Schwartz submitted testimony in support of this legislation sharing he is increasingly concerned about protecting residents' civil and constitutional rights and views that as an emergency currently. He noted that it is crucial to act now, as surveillance increases, as civil rights are threatened, and those most vulnerable are fearful of going to the doctor, school, and houses of worship. Dr. Schwartz expressed that this bill guarantees protections for all, and especially for our immigrant neighbors. He emphasized that we need to protect their and everyone else's freedoms.

Barry Seroff: Barry submitted testimony in support of this legislation emphasizing that the state should clearly protect students, families, and communities to ensure that spaces are safe and accessible. Barry shared that what ICE is currently doing is illegal, but that does not seem to be stopping them, and in response, caring citizens need to protect the most vulnerable and this bill would go a long way in making residents feel protected.

Elaine Shapiro: Elaine submitted testimony in support of this legislation noting the parallels between the United States in 2026 and Nazi Germany of the 1940s. Elaine shared that when she was a volunteer tutor with immigrant teens in Hartford last year, the director of the program handed out cards listing people's civil rights if ICE approached them. She stated that

she found the information reassuring until she saw that ICE agents throughout the country, ignore those rights. She expressed that she feels strongly about protecting immigrant neighbors and not violently separate families, and detain or deport individuals without due process, based on their skin color. Elaine shared that students cannot learn if they fear ICE arresting them or their students, and that trauma is often horrifying and impacts other students.

Tonishia Signore, Policy Director, She Leads Justice: Tonishia submitted testimony sharing that recent actions and operations conducted by federal immigration authorities should be troubling to all. She noted that an effort to deport individuals guilty of dangerous crimes has morphed into an unconstitutional, racist, and deadly attack on American communities. Tonishia raised that new data reveals that of ICE detentions, only 5% of individuals that have been detained have violent criminal convictions and 73% have no convictions. She expressed that this legislation is a good vehicle to take steps toward safeguarding the state's health, public trust, and human decency. She emphasized that impacted individuals and communities in the state are living in a constant state of hypervigilance, with children missing school, adults missing work both of which harm the state's economy, and with doctor's appointments being missed.

Sharon Silvestrini, St. Patrick - St. Anthony's Roman Catholic Church, Teacher of Adult ESL: Sharon submitted testimony in support of this legislation pointing out that as an adult ESL teacher, many of her students are hardworking parents who value education and want better opportunities for themselves and their children. She said that because of her work, immigration policies are not abstract to her, as they affect real people she knows. Sharon noted that she has witnessed that fear of immigration enforcement can affect a student's willingness to access basic services or participate in community life. She stated that this fear can make it harder for people to learn, connect with others, and build stable lives. Sharon expressed that her faith teaches the importance of compassion, dignity, and welcoming others and places like schools, churches, and community centers should remain safe places where people can learn, worship, and receive support without fear. Sharon emphasized that protecting these sensitive locations helps ensure that immigrant families can continue to access education, healthcare, and community services, as it is important for the state to protect civil rights and maintain safe spaces that allow communities to thrive.

Hannah Simms: Hannah submitted testimony in support of this legislation noting that if the state does not put protections in place now, we will suffer, and immigrant communities will be further terrorized with the potential of an increase in federal violence against immigrants and citizens. She shared that as a teacher, she needs to know her students and parents are safe at school to contribute to the educational environment. She stated she needs churches to be safe from kidnappers and for her preschooler to grow up and thrive in Hartford schools and be exposed to a wealth of culture and language, without fear of seeing someone detained or armed agents terrifying children. Hannah expressed that as someone who has been vocal against the Trump administration and its increasingly dangerous response to dissent, she has worried about her long-term safety and needs her privacy protected by the state.

Susan O. Singer: Susan submitted testimony in support of this legislation noting that masked and unidentified ICE agents have detained individuals as they drop off or are picking up their children from school, which has kept children home from school. She adds that those agents also pick up people at food pantries, which has caused people to go without food. She

noted that people stop going to church and seeking medical care out of fear. She expressed that this legislation would stop ICE from detaining individuals without a judicial warrant and picking them up as they enter or are leaving a school, church, hospital, or other protected area. She emphasized this is essential to maintain freedoms and individual rights, which this country was founded on.

Jennifer Slavin: Jennifer submitted testimony in support of this legislation explaining that schools are foundational environments for a child's development, learning, and emotional well-being. She shared that when children or families fear access essential community spaces could expose them to immigration enforcement, that can disrupt a student's sense of safety and stability. She noted that when students worry about the safety of their parents, whether families will remain together, or if coming to school could place them or a loved one at risk, their ability to concentrate, engage academically, and build healthy relationships is compromised. She added that she has witnessed how chronic stress and fear leads to increased anxiety, withdrawal, behavioral challenges, and difficulty focusing. She expressed that when families are afraid to send children to school, it not only affects that individual student, but also undermines the broader educational mission of our schools. She emphasized that when families trust that schools and healthcare facilities are safe places to access essential services, they are more likely to engage with the supports that help children thrive.

Christopher Smith, CT DSA, Member: Christopher submitted testimony in support of this legislation expressing that as an educator, he has witnessed many children who speak English as a second language, come into school exhausted because they lose sleep worrying about the safety of loved ones. He added that as a volunteer at local shelters, he has seen numbers in food pantry lines plummet whenever ICE is reported in the city, with many hiding in their homes, as if sheltering from a natural disaster. He emphasized the need for stronger states' rights to defend our neighbors, as children need to feel safe so they can learn in school, nurses need to know their patients will not be taken out of hospitals, and congregations need to know people will return next Sunday.

Mary Elizabeth Smith, Make the Road CT, Co-Deputy Director: Mary Elizabeth submitted testimony in support of this legislation noting that she has an increase in fear from those in her community from seeking healthcare, going to school, and going to places of worship since the sensitive locations policy was rescinded by the federal government in January 2025. She noted that this legislation must be strengthened so a judicial warrant is required for enforcement actions in protected locations, rather than administrative paperwork. She expressed that places within a community that support people work together to keep us safe, but there is a need for state law for further support to ensure we can protect people's privacy, civil rights, and help keep families together.

Andrew Smyth: Andrew submitted testimony in support of this legislation noting that as an educator and church volunteer, his mission in New Haven and surrounding areas is to welcome all seeking learning, faith, consolation, and care. He emphasized that people should not experience fear when at schools, churches, hospitals, or calling law enforcement. Andrew stated that he is deeply saddened that people fear going to church, as it may result in violent arrest and deportation and added that the targeting of churches is an assault on religious freedom. He expressed he works with student teachers and grieves having to inform them of

their schools' policies in case ICE raids their schools. He emphasized that children and families do not deserve this terror.

Michael Soares, NHPS, Teacher: Michael submitted testimony in support of this legislation sharing that students can only fully engage in learning when they feel safe and when their families trust that school is a place where they belong. He added that learning can only happen when students feel secure, supported, and able to focus on their education rather than fear. Michael shared that when families worry that their child's school may not be a safe space, it can lead to increased anxiety for children and hesitation to engage in the school community. Michael stated that during last year's eighth grade graduation, attendance by families was noticeably lower and the atmosphere felt solemn, due to anxiety among families about drawing attention to themselves in public spaces. He said that these milestones are meant to celebrate the hard work of students and the support of their families, but when families are afraid to attend their child's graduation, it sends a message to the children that school may not be a safe place for those who love them most. Michael emphasized that the last thing students need is additional fear of enforcement actions occurring in spaces that should be safe for them, as strong public schools depend on trust between families and educators.

Joseph Sokolovic, Bridgeport Board of Education, Vice Chair: Joseph submitted testimony in support of this legislation sharing that when parents are afraid to access healthcare, social services, food assistance, faith communities, and other basic supports, that fear does not stop at the school's door, it follows children in the form of chronic absenteeism, anxiety, and trauma. He emphasized that learning cannot happen when a child is in survival mode. Joseph added that this bill protects institutions families rely on to keep children safe, he said it is not about interfering with criminal law enforcement but ensuring that civil immigration enforcement does not undermine public education, public health, or human rights. Joseph expressed that protecting the community around children strengthens school attendance, family engagement, and student well-being. He noted that protected areas are not a carve out, but rather are an investment in educational stability and community safety.

Ann Speyer: Ann submitted testimony in support of this legislation emphasizing that schools must be protected as children need safe spaces to learn. She added that too many parents are keeping their children home out of fear and that there are broader implications, as other students in a classroom or schoolyard may be traumatized by seeing their classmate or friend grabbed and disappearing. She stated that hospitals and healthcare facilities must also be protected, as healthcare is a human right and if people are afraid to go to the hospital for treatment, that right is then denied to them. Ann expressed that religious places of worship have for centuries been considered sanctuaries against outside forces and not protecting them could open the door to religious persecution should those in power decide to go against any religion.

Kenneth Speyer: Kenneth submitted testimony in support of this legislation noting that he is a member of a group of volunteers assisting four refugee families, all of whom have work permits and seeking to build new lives in the state. He stated that the US government and ICE are terrorizing these families, and millions like them, with threats of arbitrary arrests and deportation without due process. Kenneth emphasized that this is not the America that he believes in, and until this can be rectified on the federal level, the state must protect these law-abiding residents.

Jeffrey Stein, Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance (GHIAA), Member: Jeffrey submitted testimony in support of this legislation expressing that immigrants deserve to be treated and respected the same as anyone else living in the state. Jeffrey added that several years ago as a member of an interfaith group which supported a refugee family in the state, they waited for approval to immigrate to the United States and were able to work, attend school, obtain healthcare, participate in their religious community and travel without fear of being harassed or attacked by federal government agents. He added that now as a tutor for immigrants learning English, his students need to be able to attend class, work, and move freely in their community free of worry of Federal agent harassment or attacks to become integrated into society.

Carolyn Stockman, Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance (GHIAA), Member: Carolyn submitted testimony in support of this legislation emphasizing her belief in due process protections. She stated that we have seen shocking brutality by ICE during arrests and know that only 5% of immigrants deported have a record of violent crime and only 27% have any "criminal" record, including traffic violations and misdemeanors. Carolyn expressed that First Amendment rights are being ignored, citizens are being beaten, shot, and threatened and that the state must stand up for constitutional rights and this legislation would reinforce Freedom of Speech, Assembly, and Due Process.

Doris Sugarman, Citizens Take Action, Member: Doris submitted testimony in support of this legislation noting that the strength of our communities depends on whether every person feels safe accessing basic institutions in civic life. She added that when fear prevents individuals from seeking medical care, students going to school, attending worship, or receiving food and social services, the entire community suffers. Doris expressed that the idea people would avoid their faith community, a doctor's appointment, or their child's school out of fear of immigration enforcement is troubling. She emphasized that these institutions are the backbone of healthy communities, and no one should be forced to choose between basic needs and personal safety.

Patricia Tenthorey: Patricia submitted testimony in support of this legislation citing the Declaration of Independence "all men are equal" and the 5th and 14th Amendments of the U.S. Constitution, which support her belief that immigrants, regardless of their status, possess constitutional rights, including due process. She added that the state has an obligation to follow this rule-based order, even if the Trump administration does not appear to always do so.

Susann Thiel: Susann submitted testimony in support of this legislation sharing that as a U.S. Army veteran who served in Eastern Europe during the Cold War, she did not expect to witness the same kind of government oppression and lawlessness in her own country that was suffered by those of what was the Soviet Union. Susann shared that it is imperative that the state joins other states in passing legislation to proactively fight abuses that are taking place solely for the political gain and self-enrichment of those in power. She suggests the legislation be strengthened by requiring judicial warrants for searches & seizures. She adds that allowing administrative warrants has and will continue to enable violations of the Constitution and fundamental civil rights.

Ellen Thomson, Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance, Member: Ellen submitted testimony in support of this legislation noting that her grandparents and great grandparents were immigrants, and because she is Jewish and understands that Jewish people have faced danger and persecution throughout history because of their faith, she believes that persecution should not happen to any groups. She noted that she is gravely concerned about the eradication of civil rights in immigration enforcement and the violence and that the brutality by federal agents during these operations are a threat to everyone.

Rev. Hiedi Thorsen, Trinity on the Green Episcopal Church, Pastor: Rev. Thorsen submitted testimony in support of this legislation emphasizing that churches are meant to be places of religious freedom and safety and that no individual should be subjected to unreasonable searches, seizures, or detentions in a house of God. She added that this legislation protects vulnerable individuals and the rights of people of faith. She expressed that every protected space, as outlined in the legislation is essential to our collective wellbeing.

Rhett Tock, University of Hartford: Rhett submitted testimony in support of this legislation explaining that the Hartt School of Performing Arts is one of the colleges with the highest international student population and wants the state to step up its protections to prevent the possibility of detainment of students he works with everyday who are at risk of racial profiling. Rhett noted that as educators who want nothing but safety for the student body, this causes stress for staff, faculty, and students. Rhett expressed that having statewide standards would give clarity to the standards the University of Hartford must adhere to and give vital information to students who are asking what protections they have, as well as restore a sense of safety on campuses.

Jane Torrey, Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance, Member: Jane submitted testimony in support of this legislation expressing that many members of the Asylum Hill Congregation Church are still involved in helping settle refugees. She expressed that they are now concerned that members of the immigrant community are not getting basic needs because they are afraid and members of the church are also afraid that if they help, they will be targeted. She stated that she is appalled by the way immigrant communities are being treated by the Trump administration. Jane said that those who are detained are being subjected to inhumane treatment and family separation. She emphasized that she is ashamed to be an American now and hopes the state will step up to provide protection to our neighbors.

Melinda Tuhus: Melinda submitted testimony in support of this legislation sharing a story of an Ecuadorian family that fled from their home country out of fear and came to the United States in search of a better life. She added that they should not be subjected to the fear of being picked up by ICE as they go about their daily lives.

Ruth V, Hartford Deportation Defense, Organizing Coordinator: Ruth submitted testimony in support of this legislation expressing that familial engagement is necessary, but fear still exists for families. Ruth noted that living in fear causes stress and anxiety and an anxious society, is not a healthy or productive one.

Monica van Beusekom, Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance, Member: Monica submitted testimony in support of this legislation sharing that she has witnessed the increased fear people have when entering public spaces to obtain healthcare, attend school,

or participate in their church communities. She said that this fear is palpable and is fundamentally unjust. She expressed that in the past year, she has watched with horror as federal agents deployed violent tactics to detain immigrants, routinely violating the rights of citizens and immigrants and killing peaceful protesters. Monica emphasized that we need to strengthen laws so federal agents can be held accountable for actions like this.

Debra Van Vranken: Debra submitted testimony in support of this legislation expressing that neighbors, coworkers, and friends are suffering under the threat of being taken by masked men on the street. She shared that the interruption to everyday lives like going to church, dropping children off at school, and visiting the doctor has detrimental consequences felt throughout the state.

Joan L. VanDeWater, Danbury Unites for Immigrants: Joan submitted testimony in support of this legislation noting that besides not having it being inhumane, making it more difficult for people to shop, worship, seek healthcare, and attend work and school will weaken communities by removing participation.

Todd Vetter, First Congregational Church of Madison, Reverend: Rev. Vetter submitted testimony in support of this legislation explaining that there is fear without any legal constraints, federal officials will continue to visit violence, chaos, displacement, and sorrow on the members of our communities is justified by past actions. He continues saying that without any limits placed on federal agents' jurisdiction, we are left to wonder about the boundaries normally attached to schools, places of worship, and community centers. Rev. Vetter stated that denying individuals these spaces is to impugn their capacity to be a constructive and working part of our society.

Peter Vigeland: Peter submitted testimony in support of this legislation noting that he supports the intent but believes it could be strengthened by requiring a judicial warrant signed by a judge, rather than administrative paperwork. He shared that he supports deporting undocumented immigrants who commit violent crimes but is horrified by the Trump administration's cruel and indiscriminate roundups of people who have been here for decades, working hard and paying taxes. He implores the use of common sense to improve border security while giving a path to citizenship to law-abiding immigrants who will contribute their energy and talents to our country.

Carol Vinick, Alliance for Retired Americans, Member: Carol submitted testimony in support of this legislation sharing that her ancestors were immigrants who came here to escape the European Pogroms and the Holocaust and that she is deeply concerned that immigrants today need to live in fear. Carol expressed that enforcement actions in protected locations should require a judicial warrant signed by a judge, not administrative paperwork. She stated that exceptions such as "exigent circumstances" should be narrowly defined so protections cannot be easily bypassed. Carol emphasized that institutions should adopt clear written response policies, and people who are wrongfully detained should have a meaningful way to challenge those actions.

David Vita: David submitted testimony in support of this legislation noted that generating fear and cruelty, not law and order, is the point. He stated that this legislation provides necessary balance to ensure law enforcement acts responsibly in these protected areas and does not inhibit its ability to keep communities and all members therein safe.

Susan Vogel, Indivisible Network, Steering Committee Member: Susan submitted testimony in support of this legislation emphasizing that the state must do everything possible to protect the residents of the state. Susan noted that protected areas are important because no one in the state should live in fear of their freedom and safety. She stated that as a volunteer of an organization on the frontline supporting immigrants, she can attest to many members of the community live in fear and are "sheltering in place" to avoid putting themselves, or their loved ones, in danger. Susan expressed that the consequences to that include losing income, increased food, and housing insecurity, missed, or delayed medical care, and children staying at home rather than being in school. She said that trust within communities is eroding, and all of us are less safe as a result.

Carol Wade: Carol submitted testimony in support of this legislation noting that young students are afraid to join their class which inhibits learning and socialization. She added that no one should have to weigh the safety of taking another ill individual to the doctor because their lives could forever be changed in that moment. Carol stated that she is greatly concerned about the trauma ICE is creating for school children and families.

Melba Wang: Melba submitted testimony in support of this legislation sharing that these protections matter for immigrant families and our entire community. She shares that when children miss school out of fear, classrooms are disrupted, and learning suffers. Melba shared that when parents delay medical care, illnesses become more serious, emergency rooms become more strained, and public health risks increase for all of us.

Ann Watkins: Ann submitted testimony in support of this legislation noting she is a white multigenerational citizen of the U.S. and has never felt so unsafe in her life. She added that the state must step up to the chaos and harm inflicted upon us by the federal government in its deployment of illegal and unregulated ICE activities that must be brought to justice with policies that keep communities safe from federal harm and surveillance. She emphasized she is very unhappy about her tax dollars going to an organization that she does not support.

Kimberly Weber, Danbury Unites for Immigrants: Kimberly submitted testimony in support of this legislation explaining that ICE's presence in Danbury is very real and they are not well-trained individuals. She stated that the idea of those individuals bursting into schools, hospitals, and places of worship is ludicrous and anyone should do their best to ensure that is not a possibility. She shared that this legislation ensures everyone can go about their lives without fear. She emphasized that there were protections previously like this legislation, and that there is no data to support the idea that those protections did not work.

Maureen Welch: Maureen submitted testimony in support of this legislation sharing that as a therapist, she can conclude that within the last year, the chaos inflicted by ICE on her community has had real mental health consequences. She stated that clients frequently speak of their fear of ICE showing up to their children's school and traumatizing the school community. She expressed that with no help coming from the federal government, state leaders are the last line of protection with policies that keep communities safe from federal surveillance.

John P. Wentland, St. Patrick – St. Anthony's Roman Catholic Church: John submitted testimony in support of this legislation expressing that he has a long history of assisting

people without documentation to obtain legal permanent residency. He added that he assists families who may be targeted by ICE because of their appearance or other profiling which leads to people living in fear of leaving their home or sending their children to school. John noted that his church's goal is to ensure everyone who comes to worship feels comfortable, but that cannot be guaranteed if ICE enforcement is allowed to violate sensitive locations.

Wynn Gadkar-Wilcox: Wynn submitted testimony in support of this legislation sharing that he is uncomfortable with having law enforcement actions occur in schools, hospitals, or churches. He noted that this issue is close to him, as ICE enforcement regularly occurs at the Federal Courthouse near his university office. He shared that he has witnessed the threat of ICE raids disrupting his classes and attendance therein, which impacts the school's ability to enroll and retain students. Wynn stated that when ICE enters schools, churches, hospitals, courthouses, and other government buildings, it disrupts all functions of those institutions for undocumented people and anyone else using those services.

Anna-Leila Williams, Quinnipiac University, Professor Emerita: Professor Williams submitted testimony in support of this legislation noting that it is generous and humane, while simultaneously allowing for exceptions to protect society. She noted that children and adults should not hesitate to pursue knowledge or health, since the absence of either has devastating effects that ripple outward to others.

Abigail Fisher Williamson, Trinity College, Professor: Professor Williamson submitted testimony in support of this legislation sharing that the health, prosperity, and safety of all Connecticut residents is interconnected. She added that when some community members are sick, afraid to seek education, and unable to practice their faith that makes the entire community less healthy and prosperous. She stated that this bill does not prevent law enforcement from keeping us safe, it just requires that they present a judicial warrant, to ensure everyone is protected by due process.

Sandra Wood Forand, GHIAA – Asylum Hill Congregational Church: Sandra submitted testimony in support of this legislation sharing that it would reestablish the morally correct standards for how a community should protect its members. She added that she has witnessed how terror from the government is harming her neighbors and recalls the horrific parallels of hiding Jews in Nazi Germany. Sandra stated that her church had to develop a new policy on how to respond if ICE were to attempt to invade the church, which she noted was a sobering process that broke her heart.

Zak Leavy, Deputy Director, AFSCME:

We live in a world that demands answers immediately and understand local law enforcement impact. This bill's definition of "protected area" is broad and can restrict enforcement activity on the "basis of a civil offense". When officers respond to a psychiatric committals or mental health crisis this could impact responding because they are protected areas. We urge including local law enforcement voices in refining this legislation.

Linda Sprague Martinez, Professor & Director, UConn Health:

The Health Disparities Institutes supports this bill because it clarifies how certain spaces should be treated and ensures residents safe access to essential institution. Creating a climate of fear thru surveillance, raids, detainments, and deportation degrades health and deters essential service use. Ensure protection of immigrant communities by:

Requiring clear written policies so staff knows how to respond if enforcement occurs.
Require judicial warrants signed by a judge for enforcement actions.
Remove broad exceptions so protections cannot be bypassed.
Add provisions allowing those wrongfully detained protection and a way to challenge the detention and seek relief.

Ann Reed, Co-Head Advocacy for the League of Women Voters of Connecticut:

Federal Law Enforcement adhered to a protective areas policy that included immigration enforcement. Now our community members are facing the reality of being unable to go to a hospital, school, or church without the fear that they may be stopped or detained by federal immigration without proper legal procedures. We urge support of the bill but also to
Require the creation of agency guidance so the staff of these locations know how to respond.
More specific defined term "exigent circumstances".
Add provisions to allow who's wrongfully detained to have a way to challenge the detention and seek relief.

Andrea Igdalsky, West Hartford:

SB 91 is important to me because I believe in the importance for people to feel safe in their gathering spaces. This is the basic need for spiritual health and wellbeing. Our sanctuaries are sacred and should not be invaded by agents targeting people whom our faith calls us to cherish, protect and serve.

Gregory Jackson, Fulbright Alum:

Donald Trump and his inner circle of advisers have expressed a pathological disdain for members of immigrant communities. American citizens have expressed their Constitutional rights to uphold existing laws. Members of the immigrant community have been placed in grave danger. Long established policies have been replaced by surges and visible acts of "state terrorism" through fear and violence. As an educator I have experienced the loss of more than one member of my community through ICE. I speak for many who in addition to live shooter drills, shelter in place drills we are confronted with a new threat of armed federal agents. The Constitution no longer seems relevant. This is not the America I teach in my course work.

Diane Jamieson, Thompson

As a 73-year-old resident I support the intent of this bill, but it could be strengthened. Enforcement actions in protected areas should require a judicial warrant and signed by a judge and broad exceptions would undermine the intent of the provided protections.

Andrew Richmond, Associate Professor, Southern Connecticut State University:

I have witnessed first-hand the effects on students and their families of the chaotic, discriminatory, and downright dangerous immigrant policies being enacted in D.C. and the rest of the country. Law-abiding citizens live in a constant state of fear that armed federal agents will abduct or assault. Living in constant anxiety is an insult to their personhood and the tradition of public education in Connecticut.

Loralee Richter, Danbury:

As a physical assistance it is important to me that patients feel safe both in my office and within the community. Effective healthcare relies on trust and if the patients fear entering a healthcare setting it will create barriers to care. We treat the patient in front of us, and it is our responsibility

to care for all but when our clients are sacred, they will not seek the care they need because of fears of immigration enforcement at places of healthcare.

Larry Rizzolo, PhD:

The bill sends a clear message that Connecticut protects fundamental principles of the US Constitution that law enforcement respect privacy, civil rights including the right to attend schools, religious institutions, and government offices.

Rev. Robert Janis, Sherry Manetta, Unitarian Society of Hartford:

The right to worship safely is not something we take for granted. A few years ago, the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church in Knoxville was shot up by someone who didn't approve of our values. Some of our nation's founding fathers were Unitarian and our first amendment makes clear they were concerned with governments overreach into religious liberty. Our nation over the decades have spoken up for and fought for that God-given equality for women, African Americans, people of different faiths and no faith and people of LGBTQ+ identity. Basic rights of people are being steadily eroded in a betrayal of American values.

Dr. Cynthia Mann, Whitney Pediatric & Adolescent Medicine, Hamden:

As a practicing pediatrician I have never experienced the trauma that is not occurring amongst the immigrant families in Connecticut. We are not talking about violent criminals but law enforcement over a civil offense. There is widespread fear in the community causing an increasing number of patients who do not come in for needed services. It is unacceptable to terrorize children with no accountability.

Rev. James Manship, Pastor, St Rose of Lima Meridan:

Susan Nobleman, leader:

As a leader in CONNECT Congregations Organized for a New Connecticut, I support this bill to ensure that all can access essential services, exercise their rights, and move through their communities without fear of surveillance, unjust enforcement, or civil rights violations. People deserve to live in communities where their privacy is respected, their rights protected, and their government is accountable. Protecting sensitive location ensures that all in our communities can access essential services without fear.

Jennifer Jasenski, Middletown:

It is important that we establish protected areas for our children and a safe environment for our students. ICE entering schools carrying rifles and dressed in tactical gear will affect the for years to come. Medical and health facilities also need to be safe from ICE agents to protect all from the creation of unnecessary trauma. Our practice of religion should also be protected as stated in the Constitution.

Charles Jennes, Ridgefield:

Connecticut should protect students, families and communities ensuring that spaces are safe and accessible. The bill provides an opportunity to curb those many communities' disruption protecting our freedoms involving worship, education, health, and employment. We see how ICE activity has disrupted live in America. It is time to push back in a meaningful way.

Jacqueline Johnson, West Hartford:

Everyone in Connecticut regardless of immigration status deserves access to essential services without fear.

Fr. Michael Johnson, Executive Director, Franciscan Center for Urban Ministry in Hartford, Susan Lennon:

For thirty years I have walked with immigrant families in our Franciscan parishes, school's ad community ministries in multiple states. They are neighbors, parishioners, volunteers and friends and I have baptized their children and watched them grow into young adults who contribute to our communities. Recently I saw a deep fear in many immigrant communities and the impact on children who are afraid to come to school. This is very troubling. I am guided by a tradition that places peace, human dignity, and the protection of the venerable at the center of our moral life. Jesus calls upon us to welcome the stranger.

Judy Lederer, West Hartford:

As the child of Holocaust survivors, I am aware of what it is like to live in fear of arrest and deportation. Everyone in our state regardless of immigration statues deserves access to essential services without fear.

Eleta Jones, Mary Laporte, William Marut, Member, Hartford Friends Meeting (Quakers):

The bill protects people in houses of worship, hospitals/clinics, schools, social service locations and other places where people congregate. Immigrants need to be able to go without fear. We need to make these places illegal for ICE to operate.

Marissa Munoz, Executive Director, Building One Community, Stamford.

We are a home base for the immigrant community in Stamford and the surrounding areas. The fear in immigrant communities is real and having devastating consequences. This is a compassionate response to this crisis.

Lindsey Jones, Wethersfield:

When we moved in 2016 from South Carolina we did so with hope and expectation that we would be protected from discrimination and harassment. The bill will keep ICE out of schools, Houses of worship, municipal buildings, health care facilities, social service agencies and other public places making it possible for all in Connecticut to engage in public life while maintaining their health and well-being.

Meghan Jones, Patricia Manny, Hamden:

Communities across Connecticut are experiencing fear due to increased federal immigration enforcement, Community members are worried whether it is safe to go to school, seek medical care or access services at government buildings. When people are afraid it affects education, public health, and safety across the state. Establishing clear protections for these areas ensures that everyone in Connecticut can participate in daily life without fear.

Emily Kaufman, New Haven:

As a Yale graduate student and member of Connecticut Students for a Dream I know how deeply immigrants shape our communities. More than 4000,000 immigrants live in Connecticut and nearly one in five children have at least one immigrant parent. I am seeing how the current climate of immigration enforcement is affecting the people who make up the New Haven and Yale communities. My friends and classmate have stopped attending events and certain classes out of fear of being detained. Institutions exist to serve the public and they need to be protected.

Elizabeth Keenan Professor of Social Work:

As a former resident of Minnesota, I hear many stories from friends and family about their heightened degree of fear and threat. As a social worker I know how the absence of social determinants of health negatively impacts the health and well-being of everyone. People need safe neighborhoods, safe travel to school, work, essential services, and trustworthy public officials.

Joseph Leib, School Bus Driver, Orange Public Schools:

I know the importance of a child's development to having a secure and stress-free environment. A safe environment contributes to their well-being and impacts performance, engagement, and growth. In 2025 we had a student abducted by ICE and although not on school property it has led to chronic absenteeism as students of immigrant families stay home. Create a safe environment for our children and students in our schools.

Linda Lin, Student, Yale School of Medicine:

As an immigrant and a long-time volunteer at HAVEN Free Clinic and a primary care provider I know how important it is to protect healthcare facilities, schools, places of worship, and government buildings.

Corinne Kevorkian, Sherman:

I support the intent of the bill, but it can be strengthened in several important ways:

Enforcement action in protected locations should be required a judicial warrant signed by a judge.

Avoid broad exceptions that could allow protections to be easily bypassed.

Schools, hospitals, houses of worship, and community organizations should be required to adopt clear written response policies, so staff know how to respond if ICE agents appear.

Individuals who are wrongfully detained should have a meaningful way to challenge that detention and seek relief.

These are important because no one should have to choose between seeking healthcare, education or community support and risking immigration enforcement.

Jennifer Kimmel, Glastonbury:

Everyone in our state regardless of immigration status deserves access to essential services without fear.

Audre King, Associate Professor:

I wish to note some weak points in the bill:

The "no safe alternative location" exigent circumstances:

Remove or sharply narrow.

The Terrorist Screening Database "possible match" provision:

Replace "possible match" with confirmed match plus independent judicial review.

Absence of a private right of action:

Add a private right of action for individuals arrested in violation of this section.

The designated individual mechanism lacks minimum standards:

Establish minimum standards for the designated individual role.

John Maduko, Interim Chancellor, Connecticut State Colleges & Universities:

The bill helps clarify expectations regarding enforcement activity in certain locations including colleges and universities. Universities are seeing these effects firsthand when campus administrators speak with immigrant students who are reconsidering their education goals because they fear potential immigration enforcement. Some have declined external scholarships or financial support because they fear drawing attention to themselves. We encourage consideration of how the bill will be operationalized at large and complex public institutions. Our campuses operate multiple facilities and may require designating training of personnel to carry out these responsibilities. Consider language that provides clear protections for institutional personnel.

Quinn Meehan, Bethany, Intern, Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut:

Connecticut is a safe place for individuals to access high-quality health service however surveillance systems can also impact immigrant communities who must travel to access medical care, therapies, and support services. Fear that travels to clinics or hospitals may deter some from seeking necessary care.

Brenda Maggio, Weston:

Having worked as a volunteer with immigrant organizations I see how frightened members of the immigrant community are. People should not have to choose between medical care, sending their children to school, practicing their faith, or accessing basic services for fear of immigration enforcement.

Gretchen Raffa, Chief Policy and Advocacy Officer, Planned Parenthood of Southern New England:

The federal enforcement violence that we see across the country undermines community safety which is core to reproductive freedom. People who are denied health coverage because of their immigration status face barriers and delays in the care needs. We urge protecting our immigrant communities and reinforce Connecticut's safe access to all protected areas listed in the bill.

Myra Klockenbrink, Greenwich:

My husband, daughter and son are people of color, and we feel vulnerable to the collection of our data. We do not want it shared across out of state agencies and we fear that we will be accosted by immigration authorities and wrongly detained because of how we look. We are not a lawless country, and our enforcement agencies need to follow the law.

Rachael Kohn, Cromwell:

I see videos on my social media of men in masks beating and abducting my neighbors. I have a friend who expressed how afraid she it to go to work because of the unmarked vans and agent walking around her area. It is up to Connecticut to act in the face of these malicious, racist, xenophobic policies of the federal government.

Rachael Korzendorfer, Teacher, Danbury:

My primary responsibility in my classroom is to create an environment where every student feels safe to learn. The current immigration enforcement policies follow my students into the classroom, and this hinders my students' ability to learn. Students are into survival mode and

cannot focus on learning content when there is an ever-present panic and worry about the safety of their families. We cannot allow our essential institutions to be used as bait.

Irwin Kreiger, Ashford:

As a gay man who came out in 1970 and is familiar with LGBTQ history, I am aware of the ways in which government surveillance can unfairly target a group. For the first time I see a loss of progress in the advances made in the safety and civil rights in this country. It is important that we be cautious about data collections from surveillance near places like healthcare facilities, schools, or community organizations.

Carmen Lanche, Director, Comunidades Sin Fronteras CT:

Communities are experiencing growing fear due to increased federal immigration enforcements. Connecticut must protect students, families, and communities by ensuring the following spaces are safe and accessible with clear policies:

Religious Sites

Schools and universities

Playgrounds and daycare centers

Hospitals, clinics, medical offices, etc

Nonprofit organizations, shelters, food banks, etc.

Parades, rallies, and demonstrations

State government buildings and municipal buildings such as city halls and the Legislative Office Building

Beth Lazar, Bridgeport:

Freedom of religion is part of the Bill of Rights in the Constitution but that is meaningless if you can't access your place of worship due to harassment, violence, or violation of privacy rights. Even though not in the Constitution I believe public school education and healthcare are basic human rights and need to be protected as this bill will do.

Estela Lopez-Espelin, Clinical Social Worker, Clinton:

I work with immigrants in the human services and mental health field and believe their lives matter. Healthcare facilities need to prioritize client safety but the fear of ICE invading our facilities is impacting healthcare workers and residents who use these services. I urge:

Clear written policies

Require a judicial warrant.

Removing broad exceptions

Provisions for those wrongfully detained

Dr. Madeline Negron, Superintendent, New Haven Public Schools: The urgency of this bill because of the current federal landscape cannot be overstated, since 2025 the federal administration has moved to rescind sensitive locations protections and issued guidance suggesting that a judicial warrant is unnecessary. Removing warrants signed by detached judges has removed the check and balance prevents schools from becoming sites of enforcement activity. An administrative warrant does not carry the same legal weight and it should not grant law enforcement the authority to enter non-public areas of a school. When the federal government signals it can bypass the courts it creates a chilling effect. The shift in federal tone impacts our classrooms and fear is a barrier to entry.

Cora Munoz, Assistant Principal, Wilbur Cross High School: Families are fearful of entering essential institutions due to concerns about federal immigration enforcement. When children are afraid to come to school attendance drops, learning is interrupted and trust between schools and families erodes. Educators are forced to manage crisis that should not exist within an educational environment. This bill helps address these challenges.

Eugene Leach, West Hartford:

As a retired historian at Trinity College, I understand and value the distinctive and unique part that immigration plays in the development and achievements of this country. All four of my grandparents were Jews who immigrated from Russia and were welcomed and made good lives here. My family are deep-dyed patriots and very proud and aware of our immigrant origins who deserve access to essential services without fear.

Danica Liu, Pharmacist, Danbury:

While currently not practicing in a setting where I serve the general public my previous job was with immigrants who need care but avoided seeking help for treatable conditions suffering alone. Ensure protection for immigrant communities and reinforce our commitment to safe access to schools, places of worship, healthcare facilities and government buildings.

Erin Livenspargr, Portland:

I serve on Portland's Board of Education and support the measured and thoughtful protections in this bill. The bill does not prevent law enforcement acting when public safety is concerned but does allow officer to act in exigent circumstances such as serious crimes or when a judicial warrant exists. It does prevent routine civil enforcement actions that destabilize places where children and vulnerable populations gather. Families must be able to practice their faith, seek care and obtain food without fear.

Reverend Teran Loeppke, Executive Director, Collaborative Center for Justice Hartford:

Our mission statement is:

"Rooted in the Gospel and committed to Catholic Social Teaching, the Collaborative Center for Justice advocates for systemic change and educates individuals about social justice in order to make a difference in the lives of people who are poor and alienated".

The bill creates a state-level sensitive location policy. This is not good enough. With growing violence, targeting immigrants and those who stand in solidarity to protect them we must step up and do better.

Rohan Lokanadham, New Haven: As a health care provider, I recognize my responsibility to care for all regardless of race, income, or immigration status. This will only happen when our clients are not scared to seek care because of immigration enforcement in places of healthcare. This fear does not just affect patients but also us as providers. I am scared because immigration enforcement has used lethal force against healthcare providers. How are we to know that we will be kept safe if immigration enforcement comes to our clinic? Pass this bill to ensure that immigrant communities are protected.

Kim Oser, Milford, New Haven Adult Education: I volunteer for a group that settles refugees and these are resilience, brave and an asset to Connecticut. They live in constant fear whether

they have proper documents or not. We must have the courage to protect immigrants and refugees.

Barbara Lopez, Executive Director, Make the Road CT (MRCT):

As a community-based organization that builds power of immigrants and low-income Latinx communities in Bridgeport and Hartford we believe in they should live in dignity and humanity. It is essential that designated spaces: schools, places of worship, healthcare facilities, and government buildings remain safe for everyone. Establishing legislation that protects these designated spaces would ease the burden of stress and anxiety.

Johan Lopez, Norwalk:

As a city council member and a community, immigration advocate with a family of immigrants from Columbia I understand how vital it is to protect our constitutional rights, dignity, and civil liberties in our communities. The bill strengthens these protections reinforcing the trust between communities and public institutions.

Joan Lucia, Newtown:

Students, families and communities should be protected ensuring that spaces are safe and accessible for all. Students cannot earn, ill people cannot seek medical care, individuals cannot go to Court or government buildings because of the atmosphere allowing predators free rein to terrorize our communities. I ask that we protect immigrant communities and reinforce Connecticut's commitment to protect all areas listed in this bill.

Gregory Lutz, Student, CT Students for a Dream:

I am a child of an immigrant and a friend to many more living in Danbury. I have my worries about whether my mother will be able to make it home safely. I fear for those that do not speak English. There are brave, kind, and powerful people that live in fear that one day they will be taken and not come back due to unjust enforcers of the law.

Mercedes MacAlpine, Hartford:

Some of the most affirming, life-changing moments happen in halls of learning, healing and hope and protecting these locations is important so they can access foundational resources. Receive essential services and not sacrifice their education or medical wellbeing out of fear. I support protecting environments where people can continue their lives without compromising their learning or safety.

Yesica, Danbury, CT Students for a Dream:

As a student it is important that immigrant areas be protected by law. In my Hispanic community we should not be afraid of being outside because we may be detained by ICE.

Heather MacDonald, member, New Haven Immigrant Coalition:

As a special education teacher who has taught in Connecticut for over ten years, I know one of the basic theories for teaching is Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs. Low level needs like food, water, shelter, sleep, and safety needs such as security and financial security must be met for learning and personal growth. Watching young children wonder about their survival in school and struggling to care about focus on academics when fear is present. Constant fear about the safety of self and family has an impact on students' ability to learn and impacts the mental health of our citizens. I urge requiring clear written policies, a judicial warrant, removal of broad

exceptions and adding provisions allowing those wrongfully detained to have a way to challenge the detention.

Anna Malavisi, Associate Professor, Western State Connecticut University:

As a professor of philosophy and current interim chair of our department I am very cognizant of the fear many of our students and their families face on campus, at home, at church, at health clinics/ hospitals, etc. This fear can be harmful short and long term. For students to gain the most from their studies require consistent engagement with the topic and this does not happen if they don't attend class.

Dara Marin, Student, Stratford: As a Youth Power Strategist at Make the Road CT I see the impact on youth in Bridgeport. Students are terrified to go to school. Parents don't feel safe leaving their children at school and even feel uncomfortable going to church or shopping for food. Protecting these communities is essential for maintaining the balance of the integral fabric that makes up Connecticut. The tracking of our communities should not be allowed.

Katherine Raftry:

It is important to strengthen protections against ICE because our entire community suffer when our neighbors become marginalized and immigration enforcement serves to marginalize. School is for all, and we need to back that up by making it safe.

Stanley Maticka, member, Emanuel Lutheran Church:

My faith tells me to love my neighbor, care for the sell fortunate and when an alien resides on your land you shall not oppress the alien. Our immigration system is broken and neither political party can fix it at this time, but this bill reintroduces the concept of "sensitive locations" and protecting undocumented immigrants.

Sherie McClam, Stamford:

As a retired professor of science education, I have spent my career educating and advocating for social justice in our schools and beyond. Connecticut's commitment to safe access should include a clear written policy, judicial warrants, removing broad exceptions and allowing people wrongfully detained to be able to seek relief.

Ellen Messali, Immigration Staff Attorney, New Haven Legal Assistance Assoc.:

As attorneys who represent the most vulnerable, I have witnessed the devastating effects of the fear our clients have. This piece of legislation is critical to ensuring our immigrant population feels safe outside of their homes. We encourage you to go further and include State Courthouses to the list of protected spaces.

Sarah Milius, Director, Administration of Grow Windham:

We work with youth and schools in need of food assistance. These families are fearful of raids at their schools and is impacting their mental health and preventing them from receiving the education and service they need. The bill is not a choice between anarchy and immigration enforcement.

Magda Natal, Sarah Miller, Alder, New Haven Board of Alders:

This legislation carefully defines protected areas to include schools, hospitals, clinics, vaccination and testing sites, urgent care centers, places of worship, playgrounds, childcare facilities, and social service locations reinforcing that these spaces should be safe.

Lineath Miramontes, Co-Moderator of Mecha:

Mecha is a student run organization that uplifts and fosters the Hispanic community within universities and the broader New Haven community. As a Yale student I care about creating protected areas because our capacity to support the community has been impacted with the fear of assembly due to Immigration Enforcement's presence. No one should live in fear of living their everyday.

Jaritza, Emi, Maryann Mueller, Constanza Segovia, Connecticut for All:

We are mothers and members of Hartford Deportation Defense a part of Connecticut for All. We are concerned about the safety and mental and emotional well-being of our friends, neighbors and those arrested by ICE in front of our school. This affects the school environment and families with a drop in academic performance because of not attending school.

Lauren Palladino, Pediatric Emergency Room Doctor, New Haven, and Bridgeport:

Doctors around the country have seen the effects of families avoiding necessary care as immigration enforcement has escalated. The most vulnerable are most harmed. I work with a large population of immigrant families, and I worry about those children who parents don't bring them to their pediatrician, school or our emergency rooms when needed because of fear. Reinforce Connecticut's commitment to safe access to sensitive locations.

Elyse Poller, Mansfield, Retired Teacher:

I am concerned about the disruption of student's education because of recent ICE and CBP activities. Students who miss out of social interaction or instructions do to fear of coming to school or leaving their families can quickly spiral down, feel overwhelmed and lose confidence. State and municipal buildings must also be designated as Protected Areas. Also, to be protected are parades, rallies, demonstrations, playgrounds places of worship and government agencies and services.

Audrey R, Redding:

A little over a year ago my family moved from Tennessee to Connecticut because at the state government level we sag a strong history of commitment to the freedom and wellbeing of its people by their representatives. This was not the case in Tennessee.

Brenna Regan, Redding:

Connecticut is my home having been born and raised her for 30 years I believe there need to be SAFE places where people do not have to live in fear. As a farmer, state employee, community activist and a caseworker I care about creating protected areas for our residents. It is deeply disturbing for people to be unable to safely access their basic needs they are allotted via the Constitution as well as the International Declaration of Human Rights. I have seen community members being taken violently when they were following thru on their civic obligation to attend court hearings. We can be a small but mighty state who starts this incredibly important, lifesaving movement.

Valentin Rosario, Hartford:

As a member of the Catholic Saint Augustine Church, I have seen the panic of our members under the shadow of ICE. Experiences like this are why these bills are important.

Dr. Julie Rosenberg, Pediatrician, New Haven & West Haven:

I am alarmed and terrified of what I see and am hearing from my patients and families. They are afraid to bring their children to see us for fear of potential immigration enforcement in spaces that were once protected. The American Academy of Pediatrics has affirmed that immigration enforcement activities instill fear and destabilize children's sense of safety. No child should live in constant fear.

Karen Ryker, Woodstock:

I volunteer at various charitable organizations in East Woodstock, Putnam, and Willimantic and those that frequent these centers are in great need and are victims of difficult circumstances. Many of our regular clients are staying away and are facing aggressive federal immigration enforcement. These officers have appeared in Putnam and Willimantic. Many legal U.S. citizens who look or sound "foreign" are living in fear and are afraid to get the help they need. I trust that you will work to uphold Connecticut's values and freedoms.

The following also submitted testimony:

Azila Luz

Amy Martin, Unidas

Clementina Lunar

Gemma Matherwson

Karleen Lukovitz

Clair Matthews, CTSI

Maureen Lopes

Antela Mazur

Linda Isham

Rev. Virginia McDaniel

Michael Jacobson

Mari Merwin, APAC

Richard Jennings

Robert Merrill

Paula Jones

Meyer Glaser

Beth Kaufman

Alyssa Siegel-Miles

Leonard Kemp

Julia Miller

Adrienne Kern

Susan Miller

Jody Kesten

Kimberly Molski

Josefa Klein

Stephen Mondak

Cynthia Kozak

Michelle Knold

Robert LaMonaca

Charla Nich

Paul LaMonaca

Juan Naranjo,

Anne Lampert

Carlos Naranjo

Christina Lange

Arlene Murphy

Teresa Langston

Megan Moore

Beth Lapin

Christine Mongillo

Steven Larocco

Priya Morganstern

Judith Levy

Judith Murphy

Whitney Lewis

Bianca Noronas

David Liscinsky

Dr. Andrew Nunno

Andrew Liverant

Terri O'Rourke

Jeanette Maliniak

Dana Oviatt

Cathleen Ostuw

Sam Pagano

Elizabeth Page

Kimberly Pandiani

Himani Pattisam

Annabel Pedemonti

Maricella Perazabaker

Ann Percival

Natalie Ponte

Robert Pratt

Michelle Prizio

Rebecca Ramos

Renaee Reese

Kiera Reilly

Jo Ann Reynolds

Dorothy Rich

Carol Rizzolo

Katherine Roberts

Melissa Rose

Rob Rosenthal

Laura Rozza

Edward Russell

Michael Russo

Barry Ryan

26 piece of testimony was submitted **in support** of this legislation.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Alton Blodgett: Opposes the bill because it appears aimed at obstructing federal immigration enforcement and making it harder for ICE to detain individuals who are in the country illegally. He notes that "protected areas" where federal immigration officials would be restricted from detaining individuals for civil immigration violations would include schools, hospitals, shelters, places of worship, government buildings, and even public demonstrations.

Joyce Catalano: Opposes the bill because immigrants who have entered the country illegally need to re-enter through proper channels.

Anonymous 242 – Opposes the bill because it would interfere with federal immigration enforcement.

Anonymous 256 - Opposes the bill because it seeks to make federal immigration enforcement more challenging.

Anonymous 258 - Opposes the bill because it seeks to make federal immigration enforcement more challenging.

Anonymous 287 - Opposes the bill because it creates broad "protected areas" across Connecticut where law enforcement, including federal immigration officials, would be restricted from detaining individuals for civil immigration violations. They contend it appears to be aimed at obstructing federal immigration enforcement and expanding Connecticut's sanctuary policies.

Jim King: He opposes state interference with ICE agents regarding the deportation and apprehension of all illegal immigrants. The state has no business interfering.

Phil Marasco: He stated that criminals & illegal immigrants seem more protected than our own citizens.

Kim Novak: She believes we should let our police and ICE do their jobs to keep citizens safe.

1 expressed their opposition to the bill, citing it would make things worse.

Reported by: Pamela Bianca, Justin Lamoureux,
and Tyler Fisher

Date: April 15, 2026