

July 11, 2019

Dear Members of Congress,

As 235 religious leaders and 51 faith-based organizations across faith traditions, we write to express our strong support for, and urge all Members of Congress to cosponsor, the *Protecting Sensitive Locations Act of 2019*, which would expand and codify the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) existing "[sensitive locations](#)" policy and ensures that immigrants are able to worship, access education, and receive medical care without fear of deportation. This legislation would prevent Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE), Customs and Border Protection (CBP), and any individual designated to perform immigration enforcement functions from engaging in immigration enforcement actions at or within 1,000 feet of sensitive locations like schools, hospitals, courthouses, and places of worship without prior approval and exigent circumstances. We know from sacred texts across faith traditions that nations will be judged by how they treat the most vulnerable: the widow, the orphan, the refugee, during trying times.

ICE and CBP operations have significantly increased as federal immigration offices conduct regular immigration raids, hire more immigration enforcement agents, detain families and children seeking asylum, and force local police to serve as federal immigration agents. Our undocumented neighbors across the country have been targeted – such as men coming out of a [church ministry](#) that provides shelter in extremely cold conditions, a [father](#) dropping off his children at school, [domestic violence victims](#) at courthouses, and a [mother](#) with a brain tumor at a hospital.

As ICE and CBP continue these egregious actions, people fear seeking services like shelter they desperately need to survive, and community leaders are reporting that people are afraid to go to school, hospitals, and places of worship. It is devastating that people may even choose conditions that lead to fatal circumstances, including hypothermia and unaddressed medical emergencies, due to DHS's irresponsible actions. We know that immigration raids on immigrant families do not make our cities any safer, and invading sensitive locations serves only to inject fear into our communities.

Violations of the administration's own sensitive locations policy engenders panic and fear, making families afraid to send their children to school, seek medical attention or other services, practice their religion at houses of worship, or report if they are victims of or witnesses to a crime. Our immigrant neighbors deserve to feel safe and supported in places like churches, schools, hospitals, and courthouses. They similarly deserve to feel safe whenever they travel to or from these locations. The *Protecting Sensitive Locations Act* helps protect our community members by ensuring ICE and CBP - and any other individual performing immigration enforcement functions - follow humane practices in its enforcement actions without isolating vulnerable community members.

Faith communities have demonstrated unwavering commitment to our immigrant neighbors, including more than [1,000 congregations](#) that have pledged support for the Sanctuary Movement and 1,000+ faith leaders who have [opposed](#) policies that force local police to be immigration agents. We draw from the scriptural call to love thy neighbor and welcome the sojourner by standing with our brothers and sisters to stop harmful deportations that tear families apart.

Violating sensitive locations, reducing community safety, and failing to protect those in need are affronts to our country's values of family unity, fairness and equality. We pray that in your process of discernment, compassion for immigrants and their families will touch your hearts. We call on all Members of Congress to cosponsor the *Protecting Sensitive Locations Act* and ensure immigrant families and our communities are not torn apart. Let us reflect the best of our nation by extending hospitality and living out our American values that help our communities thrive.

Sincerely,

Faith-based Organizations

Augustana Lutheran Church
Beacon Presbyterian Fellowship
Bend the Arc: Jewish Action
Bridges Faith Initiative
Community of Hope United Church of Christ
Christian Community Development Association
Christian Reformed Church Office of Social Justice
Church World Service
CME Church
Denver Presbytery Immigration Task Force
Disciples Refugee & Immigration Ministries
Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa
Eastern PA Annual Conference
Engage Action
Emmanuel Mennonite Church
Faith in Public Life
Faiths for Safe Water
Frontera de Cristo
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters, USA-JPIC
Immigration Ministry Team of Plymouth Church, U.C.C.h
IowaWINS
Judson Memorial Church
Justice For All
Lewinsville Faith in Action
Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service
MAPS-AMEN (American Muslim Empowerment Network)
Matthew 25 Coalition, New Castle Presbytery
Mennonite Central Committee U.S. Washington Office
National Council of Jewish Women
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
New Castle Presbytery
North American Climate, Conservation and Environment (NACCE)
North Carolina Council of Churches
NYS Interfaith Network for Immigration Reform
Peace Action Group of Plymouth Church Seattle, UCC
Pennsylvania Council of Churches
Pilgrim United Church of Christ
Presbytery of the Pacific
Purchase Quaker Meeting
Reformed Church in America
South Carolina Christian Action Council
Southwest Conference of the United Church of Christ
The Association of African American Imams
The Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport
Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice (UUSJ)
United Church of Christ Justice and Witness Ministries
United Church of Christ, Southwest Conference
United Methodist Committee on Relief
United University Church
Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice

Faith Leaders

Alabama

The Rev. Eugenia Anne Gamble, PCUSA, HR
Rev. Joe Genau, Edgewood Presbyterian Church

Alaska

Carmen Brooks, World Vision Child Ambassador/Friends Church

Arizona

Rev. Joseph Keesecker, Guadalupe Presbyterian Church
Frank Bergen, Episcopal Church of St. Matthew
Rev. Susan Valiquette, First Church
Rev. David Ragan, United Church of Christ
Rev. Curtis Ackley, The Good Shepherd United Church of Christ
Rev. Carol Reynolds, Scottsdale Congregational United Church of Christ
Rev. Teresa Blythe, First UCC Phoenix
Rev. Dr. Randy Mayer, The Good Shepherd United Church of Christ
Rev. Tom Martinez, United Church of Christ
Rev. Brady Abel, United Church of Sun City
Rev. Mark Adams, Frontera de Cristo

California

The Rev. Wilma Reichard, United Church of Christ
Rev. Sandi John, Chico First Baptist Church
Rev. Kristi Denham, Congregational Church of Belmont, UCC
Rev. Don Romsa, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Rev. Jason Bense, Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer
Rev. Dr. Myrna Tuttle, United Church of Christ
Rev. Will McGarvey, Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County
Abuna Will McGarvey, East County Shared Ministry
Rev. Diane Mettam, United Methodist Church
Dr. Areta Crowell, Pasadena Presbyterian Church
Rev. Emily Lin, Twin Towers UMC
Rev. Dr. Kevin Buchanan, Woodland Presbyterian Church
Hajj Reza Nekumanesh, Islamic Cultural Center of Fresno
The Rev. Deacon Catherine Wagar, Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles
The Rev. Julia Wakelee-Lynch, St. Alban's Episcopal Church
Michael Freed, American Friends Service Committee
Rev. Mary Will, United Methodist Church
The Rev. Karen Sapio, Claremont Presbyterian Church
Elder Merilie Robertson, Presbyterian Church U.S.A.
Rev. Donald Smith, Presbyterian Church U.S.A.
Rev. Dr. Matthew J. Pereira, PCUSA
Rev. Jason Gamble, Calvary Presbyterian Church
Rev. Dr. Sunny Kang, United University Church
Seminarian Kristi Van Nostran, San Gabriel Presbytery
The Rev. Dr. James Lee, Episcopal Church of the Messiah
The Rev. Madison Shockley Pilgrim UCC Church
Rev. Dr. Matthew Colwell Knox Presbyterian Church, Pasadena, CA

Colorado

Rev. Sheri Fry, United Presbyterian Church

Connecticut

The Rev. Cass Shaw, The Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport
Sister Elaine Betoncourt, Sisters of St. Joseph, Chambery/West Hartford
Rev. Dr. Joyce Ann Mercer Joyce Mercer, Yale Divinity School

Delaware

The Rev. Kevin S. Brown, The Episcopal Church in Delaware
Ms Terry Dykstra , MAC. A committee of New Castle Presbytery

Florida

Ms. Jeanette Smith, Miami Friends Meeting (Quakers)
Rev. Dr. Jeffrey DeYoe, Covenant Presbyterian Church

Georgia

The Ven. Carole Maddux, Diocese of Atlanta
Rev. Linda Joned, United Methodist Church

Illinois

The Rev. Kara Wagner Sherer, St. John's Episcopal Church
Imam Abdul Malik Mujahid, Sound Vision Foundation
Justice Elder Cynthia Greenwood, Southminster Presbyterian Church
The Reverend Elizabeth Nickerson, Southminster Presbyterian Church
Youth Ministry Director Kari Sealund, Southminster Presbyterian Church
Ms. Linda Waycie, Southminster Presbyterian Church
Rev. Jennifer Parker Wrzeszcz, Yorkfield Presbyterian Church

Indiana

Rev. Jennifer Riggs, Central Christian Church
Rita Gaither-Gant, United Methodist
Rev. Rebecca Kuiken, First Presbyterian

Iowa

Rev. Jessica Paulsen, First Presbyterian Church
Rev. and Ms Jim and Barbara Dale, First United Methodist Church
Chair Tamera Shull, IowaWINS

Kansas

Rev. Rick Behrens, Grandview Park Presbyterian Church

Kentucky

Rev. Christian Iosso, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Rev. Dr. Donna T. Morton, United Methodist Church
The Reverend Sharon Carter, Community of Faith Presbyterian Church
Rev. Tricia Dykers, Koenig Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Louisiana

The Rev. Gary Brooks, Presbyterian Church (USA)
Rev. Claire Vonk Brooks Claire Brooks, Presbyterian Church (USA)
Rev. Dan Krutz, Louisiana Interchurch conference

Maine

Vice Moderator Nancy Olmstead, Foreside Community Church
Rev. Dr. Mark Wendorf, Union Congregational Church

Maryland

Rev. Nancy Ladd, River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation
Mr. Robert Cooke, Pax Christi Metro DC-Baltimore
Mrs. Virginia Mayer, Asbury United Methodist Church
The Rev. Charles Hoffacker, Episcopal Church
Rev./Chaplain Patricia Hollinger, MS, LCPC, Church of the Brethren/Quaker
Rev. Deborah Vaughn, BCC Twinbrook Baptist Church

Massachusetts

Rev. Gary Richards , Belmont-Watertown UMC
Rev. Steve Garnaas-Holmes, St. Matthew's United Methodist Church

Michigan

Auxiliary Bishop Donald F. Hanchon, Archdiocese of Detroit
Rev. James C. Johnson, Mercy Health, Muskegon
Barbara Horcha, First Presbyterian Church of Flint, MI
Rev. David Morton, Chapel Hill UMC

Minnesota

Sister Patricia Keefe, Rochester Franciscan Congregation

Missouri

Rev. Dr. Katie Nix, Grace UMC
Rev. Cynthia Bumb, United Church of Christ
Rev. Dottie Mathews, UU Community Minister/UUSC Clergy Representative
Ms Sharon Kelts, Emmanuel Episcopal Church
Jane Lindberg, M.C.E. Jane Lindberg, St. John's United Church of Christ
Rev. Donna Chavez, Presbyterian Church (USA)

Montana

Bishop Jessica Crist, Montana Synod, ELCA
The Rev. Robert Frank-Plumlee, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Rev David Rommereim, Evangelical Lutheran Church of America
Rev. Michael Mulberry Billings, First Congregational Church

New Hampshire

The Rev. Johanna Young, St. John's, Episcopal

New Jersey

Rev. Sara Lilja, Lutheran Episcopal Advocacy Ministry NJ
Rabbi Ira Dounn
Rev Michael Capron, First Presbyterian Church

New Mexico

Rev. Pamela Shepherd, Taos United Community Church
Rev. Lorelei Kay, Westminster Presbyterian Church
Rev. Lee Walters, Westminster Presbyterian Church
Rev. Sarah TevisTownes, Church of the Good Shepherd
Rev. Dr. Donna Cavedon, First Christian Church
Rev. Talitha Arnold, United Church of Santa Fe
Rev. Dr. William Lyons, Southwest Conference of the United Church of Christ
Rev. Dr. Carolyn Dusty Pruitt, United Church of Christ
The Rev. Benjamin Larzelere, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

New York

Rev. Karen Jackson, Staten Island Inter-Religious Leadership
Rev. Ned Wight, Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock
Rev. John Long, First Presbyterian Church, Buffalo
Sister Doreen Glynn, Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet-Albany Province
Mx. Emilia Foto, UnLocal
Rev. Paul Fleck, New York Justice for Our Neighbors
Rabbi Michael Feinberg, Greater New York Labor Religion Coalition
Rev. Dr. Raymond Rivera, Latino Pastoral Action Center & Sanctuary Church
Sister Eileen Judge, Sisters of Charity of New York
Renee Hack, Jewish Congregation of New Paltz
Dr. James Fairbanks, Saving justice newsletter 199
Rev. Merle Showers, University United Methodist Church
Pastor James Osei-Kofi, Bethesda Healing Center
Rev. Micah Bucey, Judson Memorial Church
Rev. Dr. Susan De George, Hudson River Presbytery
Ruling Elder Marc Smith, First Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls
Rev. Leah Ntuala, The First Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls, NY

North Carolina

Rev. Lewis Poag, United Methodist Clergy - Retired
Rev. Paula Clayton Dempsey, Alliance of Baptists
Rev. Cathy Tamsberg, Pullen Memorial Baptist Church
Rev. Melody Pajak, Faith Communities Organizing for Sanctuary
The Rev. Dr. Jennifer Copeland, United Methodist Clergy

Ohio

Elder Jack Kleier, Third Presbyterian Church
Rev. Dr. John Lentz, Forest Hill Church Presbyterian
Rev. Dr. Michael Castle, Harmony Creek Church
Rev. Dr. Erwin Goedicke, North Presbyterian Church
Ms. Cheryl Weiss, Westminster Presbyterian Church
Mr. William Weiss, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Wooster OH
Rev. Erica Saunders, Peace Community Church

Oklahoma

Rev. Dr. Deborah Meinke, Cimarron Presbytery

Oregon

The Rev. Cecil Prescod, Ainsworth United Church of Christ
Rev. Dave Bean, Pioneer United Methodist
Rev. Ejo McMullen, Buddha Eye Temple
Rev. Dr. W. J. Mark Knutson, Augustana Lutheran Church

Pennsylvania

Rev. Sandra Strauss, Pennsylvania Council of Churches
Rev. Ross Carmichael, St. Andrew Lutheran Church
Mrs. Charity Stowell, Catholic Charities
Sister Frances Murray, Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia
Rabbi David Mivasair, Ahavat Olam Synagogue
Rev. Paul Hagedorn, Taernacle Lutheran
Mrs. Maryann Richmond, Lititz Moravian Congregation
Rev. Susan Tindall, College Hill Presbyterian Church
Pastor Stephen Ohnsman, Calvary United Church of Christ, Reading, PA

Rev. Robert Hunsicker Robert Hunsicker, United Church of Christ
Carolene Brubaker, Grandview United Methodist church
Rev. Leslie Mamas, United Church of Christ
Rev. Daniel Donmoyer, ELCA
Rev. Janel Rice Janel Rice, Calvary Moravian Church
Richard Williams, Unitarian Universalist Pennsylvania Legislative Advocacy Network
Rev. John Deegan, Augustinians
Mr. Richard Burkett, Peace-Tohickon Lutheran Church
Mr. Michael Babitch, Christian Community
Rev. Cynthia Crouner, Monroe County United
Rev. Theodore Cockley, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
Allan Wysock, St. Paul Luth, York PA
Rev. Sandra Mackie, Christ Lutheran, Dillsburg
Rev. Dr. Beverly Dale, United Christian Church of Levittown
Susan Loucks, Pittsburgh Monthly Meeting (Religious Society of Friends)
Mr Jonathan Fox, Civil Rights Inc.
The Rev. Daphne Messersmith, Diocese of Central Pennsylvania
Rev Bill Bloom, United Christian Church
Paul Witte, St. Vincent de Paul Church Germantown
Rev. Dr. Thomas, Clifton Concord Presbyterian Church
Pastor Michele Schenk, United Christian Church
The Rev. Erika Wesch, Little Zion Lutheran Church
The Rev. Marian Shearer, United Church of Christ
Rev. Ruth A. Sheets, United Church of Christ
Rev. Nancy Schongalla-Bowman, United Christian Church, Levittown, PA
The Rev. Faith D'Urbano, Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem

Rhode Island

Rev. Dr. David Ames, St. Martin, Episcopal Church

South Carolina

Rev. Brenda Kneece, Belmont Baptist Church
Rev. Dr. Donnie Woods, Charleston Atlantic Presbytery PCUSA
Rev. Gavin Meek, Presbytery of New Harmony
Rev. Joseph A Darby Nichols, Chapel AME Church

Tennessee

Rev. Dr. Gordon Gibson, Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church
Rev. Erin Racine, West End United Methodist Church

Texas

Rev. Dr. Paul Ziese, ELCA
Rev. Vickey Gibbs, Resurrection MCC
Rev. Dr. Neil Cazares-Thomas, Cathedral of Hope United Church of Christ
Rev. Carol Tompkins, Member-at Large, Presbytery of New Covenant PCUSA
Sister Rose Quilter, Roman Catholic Sister
Rev. Greg McDonell, Northwoods UU Church
Rev. Shane Webb, Woodhaven Presbyterian Church
Rev. Tom Heger Crestholme, Presbyterian Church, San Antonio
Rev. Dr. Michael Gregg, Royal Lane Baptist Church

Utah

Rev. Steven Klemz, Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

Vermont

Mr. and Mrs. Richard and Gail Butz, Ascension Lutheran Church
The Venerable Catherine Cooke, cathedral Church of St. Paul

Virginia

Rev. Dr. David Hindman, Williamsburg United Methodist Church
Rev. Dr. John Copenhaver, VA Conference of the United Methodist Church
Rev. Jay Campbell, Mount Vernon UMC
Elder Catherine Saunders, Lewinsville Presbyterian Church, McLean, VA
Ms. Susan Bartram, Lewinsville Presbyterian Church
Elder Constance R Church, Lewinsville Presbyterian Church
Rev. Dr. William Reinhold, Former General Presbyter/Stated Clerk of Coastal Carolina

Washington

Rev. Thomas Quigley, Edmonds United Methodist
Pastor Anne Hall, Lutheran Church in the San Juans
Mrs. Shirley Wilkinson, Seattle First Baptist Church
Rev. Lara Crutsinger-Perry, The United Churches of Olympia
Sister Aneelah Afzali, MAPS-AMEN (American Muslim Empowerment Network)
Reverend Wendy Taylor, United Churches

Washington, D.C.

Rev. Dr. Sharon Stanley-Rea, National City Christian Church
Bro. Brian McLauchlin, Divine Word Missionaries
Elder Marco Grimaldo, Bread for the World
Rev. Dr. Aaron Wade, The Community Church of DC

Wisconsin

Rev. Glenn Danz, United Church of Christ
Reverend Rebecca Ninke, Brooklyn Lutheran
Rev Sarah Moore-Nokes, Winnebago Presbytery
Rev. Sonja Ingebritsen, Community of Hope United Church of Christ

National

Rev. Reggie Smith Cameron Kritikos, Christian Reformed Church Office of Social Justice
Rev. Jack Amick, United Methodist Committee on Relief
Rev. Dr. Kate Epperly, Disciples Home Missions, Ministries Across Generations Team
Sister Quincy Howard, OP, Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa
Rev. John Mobley, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Alabama-NW Florida
The Rev. Susan Anderson-Smith, St. Bartholomew, Church, Manhattan
Sister Rose Therese Nolta, Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters, USA-JPIC
Sister Simone Campbell, NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
Rev. Jennifer Butler, CEO, Faith in Public Life
Rabbi Salem Pearce, T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights
Imam Al-Hajj Talib Abdur-Rashid, The Muslim Alliance in North America
Dr. Bill Mefford, Fig Tree Revolution
Rev. Teresa Hord Owens, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Stated Clerk, Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, II, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Rev. Dr. Susan De George, Hudson River Presbytery
Rev. Anne Dunlap, Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ)