



LatinoNetwork

**Testimony of Anthony Castaneda, Policy Manager
Regarding SJM1: ICE “Sensitive Locations” Policy
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Measure 110 Implementation
April 8th, 2021**

Dear Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Measure 110 Implementation.

Latino Network urges the Senate Committee on Judiciary to pass SJM1 to call on the U.S. Congress to enact legislation prohibiting ICE enforcement actions in *sensitive locations* to protect and cultivate the mental, physical, and spiritual health of Oregon’s children and families. SJM1 is a legislative priority for a broad coalition of partner organizations, advocates, and neighbors, including Oregon Partners for Education Justice, Early Childhood Coalition, The 2021 Children's Agenda, and the Equity Collaborative.

Codifying ICE *sensitive locations* policy would ensure that families are able to make long-lasting memories on school field trips, seek life-saving medical care, study in the university library, attend Sunday mass, give a toast at a wedding, or mourn the loss of a loved one without fear of detainment and deportation. It is about allowing our families and neighbors to move through life’s ups and downs with a sense of dignity and respect.

Today, Oregon’s children under the age of six are more culturally, ethnically, and linguistically diverse than any previous generation. A quarter of these children speak a language other than English. According to the [Center for American Progress](#), roughly 85,000 children and youth in Oregon are U.S. citizens living with at least one undocumented family member (or mixed-status households). This includes multi-generational households where language, traditions, and culture are passed from one generation to the next.

Yet, our mixed-status families continue to live in fear of ICE raids, detainment, and deportation. According to the [Department of Homeland Security](#), from 2008 to 2014, ICE tore families apart and deported over 300,000 individuals per year. In 2020, amidst a historically devastating global pandemic, ICE conducted over 100,000 enforcement actions. More recently, ICE escalated their tactics and raids in Oregon.



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In February 2020, in our very own backyard in Washington County, ICE agents targeted and detained a father who had walked his two young children to a bus stop in the Tigard-Tualatin School District ([OPB, 2020](#)). ICE raids and family separations, especially during early childhood, have lasting impacts on children’s growing brains, and even the stress caused by fear of being separated from parents puts children’s growth and development at risk. ([CLASP, 2018](#)). **Parents should not fear ICE when they are ensuring their children make it safely to school. Children should not fear that their parents will be taken away.** We can do better and we should do better.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to share our voice with you.

In solidarity,

