

February 13, 2017

Stephanie Rawlings-Blake
Past President
U.S. Conference of Mayors
1620 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Ms. Rawlings-Blake:

I write to you with a heavy heart as I continue to learn of the outrageous attempts by the Trump administration to carry out its discriminatory and xenophobic policies.

The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals decision to uphold the suspension of the Trump "Muslim travel ban," did not stop the Trump administration from implementing an unprecedented and large-scale enforcement effort that is terrorizing vulnerable immigrant communities across the country.

Over the last week, we have witnessed Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents targeting undocumented immigrants in 12 states. And now, 11 million people are under siege as a result of the executive order known as "Enhancing Public Safety in the Interior of the United States." Carrying out this executive order amounts to an assault based on racial and ethnic profiling.

Thus far, ICE agents have apprehended more than 600 people in at least 12 states, and the numbers continue to grow. In some localities, ICE agents have set up checkpoints on roadsides where people are randomly asked to show their identification and offer proof of citizenship. And in this federal rush to apprehend and indefinitely detain undocumented immigrants, many people are terrified and have nowhere to turn for legal assistance.

Whole families are making plans to secure their children with a family member or friend in the event of an ICE raid at their workplace. As a granddaughter of immigrants, it hurts to know that children have to go to school each day wondering if their parents will be home that night.

We at the American Federation of Teachers are worried about the chilling effects these ICE raids have on our communities. More specifically, we are

The American Federation of Teachers is a union of professionals that champions fairness; democracy; economic opportunity; and high-quality public education, healthcare and public services for our students, their families and our communities. We are committed to advancing these principles through community engagement, organizing, collective bargaining and political activism, and especially through the work our members do.

American Federation
of Teachers, AFL-CIO

AFT Teachers
AFT PSRP
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AFT Public Employees
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Professionals

555 New Jersey Ave. N.W.
Washington, DC 20001
202-879-4400
www.aft.org

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concerned about the psychological impact the raids have on children because, as educators, we know that circumstances outside the classroom have a major impact on our students' educational success.

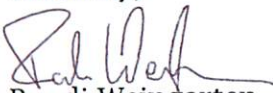
As the Trump administration continues to blindly dismantle the rights and protections of numerous immigrants and communities of color, I urge you to join me and activate your colleagues at the U.S. Conference of Mayors. If we have any chance of effectively responding to these draconian acts, we need the leaders of our cities and localities to stand with the families affected.

The AFT encourages cities to join us in our attempts to help immigrants across the nation by setting up barriers and safe havens from the ICE raids. The burden is on us to demonstrate our outrage and defend the rights of all who have made America their home.

The AFT calls on the mayors of Atlanta; Austin and Dallas, Texas; Oklahoma City and other cities across the country who have not yet reiterated their support for undocumented immigrants to resist these attempts at inflicting terror on communities of people who simply want to share in the American dream.

The AFT calls on the U.S. Conference of Mayors to encourage all mayors of cities to support all residents who have made their homes in these cities regardless of their immigration status.

Sincerely,



Randi Weingarten
President