



ASSEMBLY FOR HOPE



BUILDING A WELCOMING MICHIGAN

POLICY PLATFORM

STRANGERS NO LONGER POLICY PLATFORM TRAINING

Our faith in action





LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of this training, you will be able to:

- Describe the purpose of Strangers No Longer's policy platform.
- Name the five Pillars of Belonging.
- Distinguish state-level and federal-level policy proposals.
- Use talking points and personal stories respectfully.
- Identify one action they can take in your community.



WHO IS STRANGERS NO LONGER?



Motivated by our faith's call to compassion and care for the stranger, Strangers No Longer works to promote the inclusion and well-being of immigrants in Michigan.

Our Circles of Support form a statewide network of parishes, high schools, community groups, and local institutions.





STRANGERS NO LONGER



30+ Anglo/Citizen Circles of Support



10+ Immigrant Circles of Support



10+ Youth Circles of Support



CIRCLE ENGAGEMENT

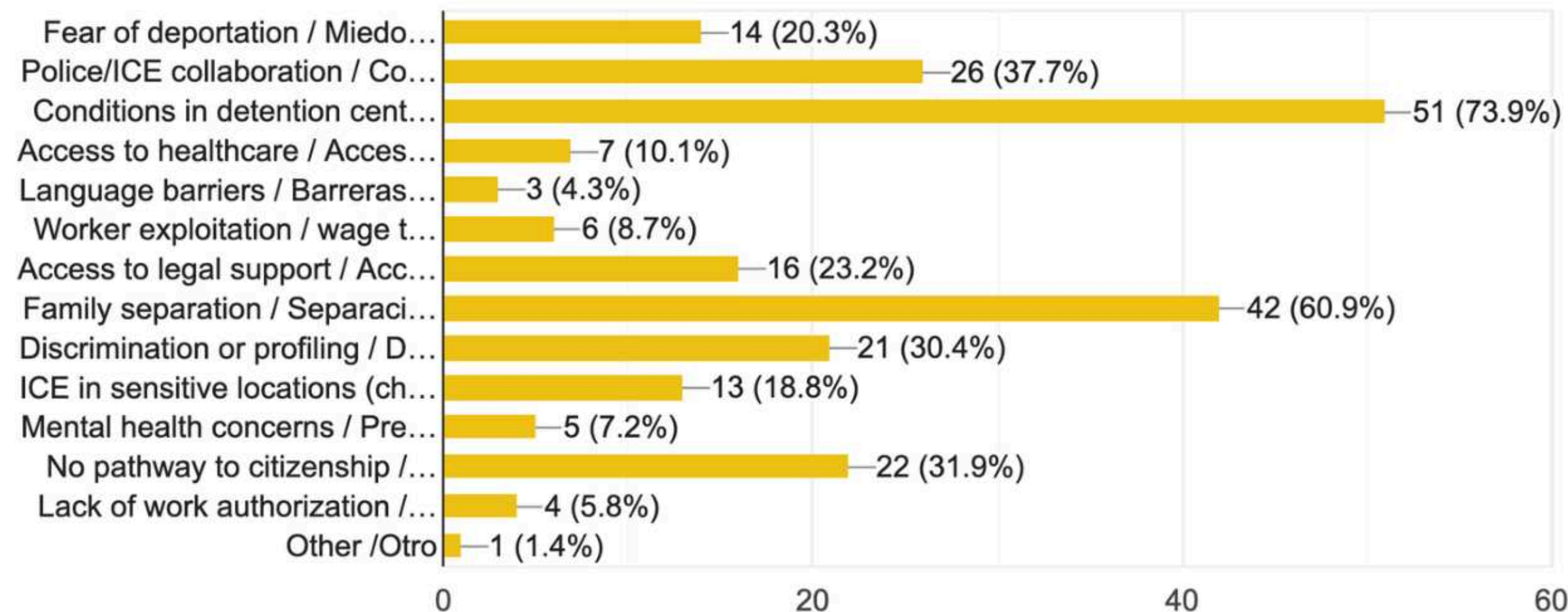
Education | Accompaniment | Advocacy





POLICY PLATFORM

Purpose: To put our faith in action by initiating conversations with fellow parishioners but also political candidates and elected officials, regarding the immigration-related issues that matter most to our communities.





PLATFORM PREAMBLE

Through our direct accompaniment of immigrant communities statewide, we have identified five central themes that unite us as one people. These themes are not simply common ground between U.S-born and foreign-born Americans, but rather a declaration of our shared humanity, rooted in solidarity and the common good. For Michigan to be a welcoming state, the following should hold for all families and residents:

Five Pillars of Belonging for a more Welcoming Michigan:

- 1. Everyone deserves to live without fear of forcible separation.*
- 2. Everyone deserves safety and protection.*
- 3. Everyone deserves quality community programs and resources.*
- 4. Everyone deserves the opportunity to fully participate in civic and economic life.*
- 5. Everyone deserves the dignity of due process and constitutional protections.*



EVERYONE DESERVES TO LIVE
WITHOUT FEAR OF FORCIBLE
SEPARATION.



Family separation can affect:

- Parents
- Children
- Extended families
- Schools and neighborhoods
- Community stability

Key Message:

Reasonable pathways to citizenship and humane alternatives to detention are necessary.

POLICY PROPOSAL

"Do you support a meaningful federal immigration reform, like that proposed by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and the American Immigration Council, that offers: pathways to citizenship for long-term residents; alternative compliance processes, in lieu of detention and removal; and humanitarian protections and due-process to refugees and asylum seekers?"

*This policy proposal is suitable for federal-level political candidates.

TALKING POINT

According to a study conducted by the nonpartisan institute, Brookings, an estimated 205,000 children are affected by parental detention and deportation, and a majority of these children, 145,000, are U.S. citizens.

Providing reasonable pathways to citizenship allows families to stay together.

TALKING POINT

A 2026 report by the Cato Institute found that in each year from 1994 to 2023, across all levels of government, immigrants paid more in taxes than they received in benefits. This resulted in a cumulative fiscal surplus of \$14.5 trillion in real 2024 U.S. dollars, including savings on interest payments on the national debt.

TESTIMONIAL

"My husband, an asylum seeker from Venezuela, never came home from work one day. Despite following every requirement of his asylum case, ICE detained him at his workplace. We had just learned that we were expecting our third child. It has been nearly 14 months since he was taken from our family. Our baby boy is now eight months old, but his father has never held him. My older children break down in tears whenever they talk about their dad, asking when he is coming home. My husband missed the birth of our son. He has missed birthdays, milestones, and everyday moments that we, as a family, will never get back. Our children are growing up without their father—not because he committed a crime, but because our family was separated while we sought protection."

MEANINGFUL FEDERAL IMMIGRATION REFORM

Pathways to citizenship

- Provide long-term residents with a realistic process to develop legal status and citizenship.
- Require applicants to meet clearly defined standards, such as background checks, residence requirements, and other eligibility criteria.

Alternatives to detention and removal

- Create structured compliance options for people with lower-risk immigration cases.
- Use proportionate consequences (e.g., warnings, compliance corrections, or affordable monetary fines) instead of treating detention or deportation as the only enforcement tools.
- Help people understand court dates and immigration requirements so they can comply with the process.

Humanitarian protections

- Provide safe and legal paths to seek protection, ensure humane treatment while cases are pending, & protect people from being returned to unsafe places.
- Expand access to legal help, interpretation, shelter, health care, and other basic services.

MEANINGFUL FEDERAL IMMIGRATION REFORM

Due-process protections

- Guarantee notice of immigration proceedings and the opportunity to present a case.
- Provide access to immigration judges and meaningful appeals.
- Ensure timely bond hearings for people who are detained.
- Improve access to legal counsel and interpreters.
- Establish oversight and accountability for immigration-enforcement agencies.
- Prevent profiling, arbitrary detention, family separation, and removal without a fair hearing.

What this proposal would mean

- It would not eliminate immigration laws or border controls.
- It would not guarantee citizenship to every immigrant automatically.
- It would require clear eligibility standards, background checks, and compliance with the law.
- It would replace overly harsh, one-size-fits-all enforcement with a more fair, proportional, and accountable system.



INTERFAITH PILGRIMAGE: MEETINGS WITH LEGISLATORS

*WHAT PLATFORM-RELEVANT BILLS ARE WE
ADVOCATING FOR?*





EVERYONE DESERVES SAFETY AND
PROTECTION.



Communities are safer when residents can:

- Report crimes without fear
- Seek emergency medical care
- Worship and attend religious services safely
- Trust local law enforcement
- Receive help regardless of immigration status

Key message:

Immigration enforcement is primarily a federal responsibility. Local participation can undermine trust in police and make communities less safe.

POLICY PROPOSALS

"Do you support legislation prohibiting local law enforcement agencies from entering into 287(g) agreements with ICE, as states such as New York, Illinois, New Jersey, and Colorado have already done?"

"Do you support legislation, like MI Senate Bill 508, that would designate locations, such as places of worship, hospitals, and schools, as protected spaces, allowing federal immigration enforcement to enter only with a valid judicial warrant?"

*These policy proposals are suitable for state-level political candidates.

TALKING POINT

Per the U.S. Constitution, immigration enforcement is strictly a federal responsibility. According to *Police Chief Magazine*, research consistently shows that when local police act as immigration agents, undocumented immigrants are far less likely to report violent crimes, sexual assaults, and domestic abuse for fear of deportation. This undermines the safety of entire communities, effectively placing community-driven public safety goals on the back burner, all in exchange for federal funding.

TALKING POINT

A 2023 UCLA study found that nearly every type of immigration enforcement encounter was associated with delays in seeking healthcare among Latino and Asian immigrants.

A 2025 national survey published in the *Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health* found that most Americans believe immigration enforcement in hospitals, schools, and places of worship would deter immigrants from seeking needed medical care.

TESTIMONIAL

"In speaking with my local law enforcement, I realized that they were unaware of the negative consequences of 287(g) agreements, which are formal contracts between local police and federal immigration agencies. Once they knew, they said they had no interest in signing onto one. They understood that these agreements undermine community trust in police."

"I am a schoolteacher. This past year, I had a student who needed medical attention. Due to the family's immigration status and fear of possible ICE detention at the hospital, the appropriate medical care was not given until the child needed emergency surgery. The child missed the rest of the school year and suffered needlessly."

PROHIBITING 287(G) AGREEMENTS

HB 4941 - Prohibits Michigan law enforcement agencies, including state, county, city, village, and township police agencies, from entering into, modifying, or renewing formal immigration-enforcement agreements with federal authorities under Section 287(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

SB 780 - Prohibits Michigan law enforcement agencies from entering into, modifying, or renewing 287(g) agreements with federal immigration authorities. It is the Senate counterpart to HB 4941.

HB 4941 is currently stuck in the House Committee on Government Operations.

SB 780 is currently stuck in the Senate Committee on Government Operations.

PROTECTING SENSITIVE SPACES IN MICHIGAN

Why protected spaces matter

- Children should be able to attend school without fear of immigration arrest.
- Patients should be able to seek medical care without avoiding hospitals.
- People should be able to worship, appear in court, and access victim services safely.
- Service providers can work with families more effectively when residents trust that seeking help will not expose them to immigration enforcement.
- The policy reinforces due process, family stability, and access to essential services.

What the proposal would not do

- It would not make anyone immune from federal immigration law.
- It would not prevent ICE from enforcing federal laws outside protected locations.
- It would not block enforcement when a valid judicial warrant or emergency exception applies.
- It would not stop local police from responding to crimes, emergencies, or threats to public safety.

PROTECTING SENSITIVE SPACES IN MICHIGAN

HB 4859 - Restricts immigration enforcement in sensitive locations. Prohibits immigration enforcement actions in specified locations, including educational institutions, hospitals, places of worship, courthouses, and organizations serving vulnerable populations, subject to court-order and imminent-public-safety exceptions.

SB 508 - Protects sensitive locations from immigration enforcement. Restricts immigration enforcement actions by federal officers in locations such as schools, hospitals, places of worship, courthouses, and certain service organizations, with exceptions including court orders and imminent threats to public safety.

SB 509 - Protects personal information from disclosure for immigration enforcement. Restricts Michigan state agencies and other covered entities from disclosing certain personal information to immigration authorities without a court-issued warrant.

SB 508 is currently ready for the Senate Committee of the Whole to bring up and take a vote.

SB 509 is currently in the Civil Rights, Judiciary and Public Safety Committee.

HB 4859 is currently stuck in the House Committee on Government Operations.



EVERYONE DESERVES QUALITY
COMMUNITY PROGRAMS AND
RESOURCES.



Welcoming communities invest in:

- Cross-cultural communication
- Language access
- Anti-discriminatory trainings
- New American integration
- Community-based support
- Economic opportunity

Key message:

Just and effective public programs help everyone participate and thrive.

POLICY PROPOSALS

"Do you support funding the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES) to train state and local law enforcement on immigrant rights, cross-cultural communication, and de-escalation strategies, and provide general guidance on matters concerning interactions between local police and federal immigration enforcement?"

"Do you support protecting the Office of Global Michigan's funding and support their mission to make Michigan a state that is welcoming and inclusive to newcomers?"

*These policy proposals are suitable for state-level political candidates.

TALKING POINT

Local law enforcement often lack the training and resources needed to effectively navigate the challenges created by increased federal immigration enforcement. Misunderstandings about cultural norms or uncertainty about legal responsibilities can compromise public safety and create unnecessary risks for both residents and officers. Surveys published by *Police Chief Magazine* show that many law enforcement officials believe current federal immigration enforcement practices damage relationships with immigrant communities.

TALKING POINT

State agencies, like Office of Global Michigan, play a key role in strengthening local economies by supporting New American integration. Research from the Center for American Progress estimates that full immigrant integration could create more than 438,800 new jobs through increased consumer spending, entrepreneurship, and investment. When these efforts are underfunded, communities miss opportunities to grow their workforce, attract investment, and realize the full economic and social benefits immigrants bring to Michigan.

TESTIMONIAL

"In my culture, making extended eye contact, either while speaking or listening, is considered disrespectful and is usually avoided when speaking to an elder or an authority figure. My son was raised this way. If he were to be stopped by a police officer, he would avoid eye contact to show respect and compliance. I worry that a police officer could misunderstand this. With my son being Black and speaking limited English with an accent, I am scared that he could be turned over to ICE for no reason. This situation makes me and my family feel at risk and unwelcome in our new home."

TRAINING MICHIGAN LAW ENFORCEMENT ON IMMIGRANT RIGHTS

Role of MCOLES

- MCOLES establishes statewide standards for the recruitment, training, licensing, and continuing education of Michigan law-enforcement officers.
- State funding would allow MCOLES to develop consistent training and guidance for state and local agencies.

Core training areas

- **Immigrant rights**
 - Constitutional protections
 - Rights during traffic stops, questioning, searches, and detention
 - Limits on local police involvement in federal civil immigration enforcement
 - Distinction between criminal investigations and immigration matters
 - Appropriate use of interpreters and language-access services

TRAINING MICHIGAN LAW ENFORCEMENT ON IMMIGRANT RIGHTS

- **De-escalation**

- Techniques for reducing fear, confusion, and conflict
- Trauma-informed responses for refugees and survivors of violence
- Safer approaches during encounters involving language barriers or cultural misunderstandings

- **Guidance on federal immigration enforcement**

- Explain the difference between a judicial warrant and an administrative immigration document.
- Clarify agency procedures for:
 - Requests for information
 - Detainers and custody transfers
 - Immigration enforcement near schools, hospitals, courts, and places of worship
- Emphasize that local police should focus on state and local public safety responsibilities.

TRAINING MICHIGAN LAW ENFORCEMENT ON IMMIGRANT RIGHTS

HB 5495 - Prohibits stops, detentions or arrests based solely on personal characteristics, including assumptions about immigration status. Requires federal officers to follow constitutional protections when enforcing state law in Michigan and denies them special legal protections if they violate those rights. Reiterate that officers may not forcibly enter anybody's homes without a judicial warrant, consistent with core Fourth Amendment principles and long-standing constitutional protections.

SB 334 - Requires law-enforcement training in de-escalation, implicit bias, procedural justice, crisis intervention, and behavioral health. The bill establishes training standards through the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES), requires training for new and existing officers, and addresses agency policies for de-escalation. It is tied to SB 341.

SB 341 - Strengthens law-enforcement officer licensing and accountability requirements.

HB 5495 is currently stuck in the House Committee on Government Operations.

SB 334 was referred to the Committee of the Whole on September 9, 2025. This bill is tie-barred with SB 341, which relates to background checks for police candidates.



EVERYONE DESERVES THE
OPPORTUNITY TO FULLY
PARTICIPATE IN CIVIC AND
ECONOMIC LIFE.



Full civic and economic participation includes the ability to:

- Drive legally
- Take children to school
- Reach medical care
- Work and support a family
- Access education and services
- Contribute to local economies

Key Message:

Our state's safety and economy will benefit from the restoration of driver's licenses for all.

POLICY PROPOSAL

"Do you support legislation, similar to that of Washington D.C. and 19 other states, to restore driver's licenses to all age-eligible Michigan Residents?"

*This policy proposal is suitable for state-level political candidates.

TALKING POINT

Until 2008, all Michigan residents had the ability to obtain a driver's license after passing a driver's test and meeting other requirements.

If legislation to restore drivers licenses to all residents were to become law, the Michigan League for Public Policy estimates that over the course of three years, 55,000 Michiganders would apply for a driver's license, leading to 20,000 vehicle purchases.

TALKING POINT

The Michigan League for Public Policy estimates that reinstating driver's licenses for undocumented immigrants would boost state revenue by \$13.5 million and contribute \$12 million in recurring revenue, \$9 million of which would be from sales and gas taxes related to vehicle ownership. Over the course of 10 years, this policy would generate nearly \$100 million for the state of Michigan.

TESTIMONIAL

"For me and for many immigrants in Michigan, leading full civic and economic lives means having the opportunity to obtain a driver's license. The importance of this license is evident in my own family. Without a driver's license, our daily lives become very difficult. Everyday tasks like going to the grocery store, taking my children to school, or to the doctor when they're sick, and visiting relatives who live far away become sources of stress and anxiety. This is because driving without a license puts us at risk of being pulled over by law enforcement, turned over to ICE, and ultimately separated from our families."

MICHIGAN DRIVER'S LICENSES FOR ALL AGE-ELIGIBLE RESIDENTS

Policy history

- Michigan added a “legal presence” requirement in 2008.
- This change prevented undocumented immigrants from obtaining standard driver's licenses or state IDs. It also created difficulties for some citizens and lawfully present immigrants whose documents were missing, delayed, or difficult to verify.
- Previously, eligibility was generally based on identity, Michigan residency, testing, and safety requirements.

Who can currently obtain a license?

- Permanent residents
- Refugees and asylees
- People with valid visas or other recognized immigration protections
- Applicants who meet Michigan's identity, residency, vision, knowledge, and road-test requirements

MICHIGAN DRIVER'S LICENSES FOR ALL AGE-ELIGIBLE RESIDENTS

What the proposed policy would do

- Restore access to standard Michigan licenses for all age-eligible residents.
- Require the same identity, residency, testing, and safety standards for everyone.
- Allow all residents to obtain insurance and register vehicles.
- Improve access to employment, education, health care, and essential services.
- Promote safer roads and stronger, more stable communities.

What the policy would **NOT** do

- Grant immigration status or citizenship
- Create voting eligibility
- Automatically provide a REAL ID
- Eliminate driving tests or safety requirements

MICHIGAN DRIVER'S LICENSES FOR ALL AGE-ELIGIBLE RESIDENTS

HB 4195 - Removes citizenship and legal-presence requirements for obtaining a Michigan driver's license. Amends the Michigan Vehicle Code so that immigration status would not determine residency for licensing purposes. The bill also restricts the use of certain Secretary of State records for immigration enforcement. Applicants would still need to meet applicable licensing and safety requirements.

HB 4195 was defeated on the floor with a vote of 39–64 in March 2025, with six Democrats joining the Republican majority to vote against it.



EVERYONE DESERVES THE DIGNITY
OF DUE PROCESS AND
CONSTITUTIONAL PROTECTIONS.



Due process includes:

- Access to legal information
- A fair opportunity to present one's case
- Humane conditions
- Timely medical care
- Protection from abuse and neglect
- Accountability in detention facilities

Key Message:

Due process is a Constitutional right for all residing in our country, regardless of their immigration status.

POLICY PROPOSAL

Federal Candidate: "Do you support a federal investigation into the health and safety conditions of all Michigan immigrant detention centers, including the North Lake Processing Center, call for an indefinite moratorium on new immigrant detention facilities, and pursue humane, community-based alternatives instead?"

State Candidate: "Do you support a call for an inspection by the MI Dept. of Health to investigate the health and safety conditions at all privately run or county-run immigrant detention centers in Michigan, and oppose the expansion of new detention facilities in the State."

TALKING POINT

Custody data released by ICE in December 2025 shows that the vast majority, 90% of the daily average population at North Lake Processing Center, have not been charged with a crime.

In January 2026, a congressional investigative report identified over 1,000 credible reports of human rights abuses in federal detention centers, including reports of physical and sexual abuse, medical neglect, and denial of food or water.

TALKING POINT

The January 2026 congressional investigation revealed that the North Lake Processing Center in Michigan placed 87 calls to emergency medical services over 6 months.

In April 2026, a significant portion of North Lake's roughly 1,400 detained immigrants launched a hunger strike to protest medical neglect, subprime conditions, and legal stonewalling.

TESTIMONIAL

"After falsely accusing me of missing my immigration hearing, and refusing to accept the proof proving otherwise, ICE detained me at the North Lake Processing Center in Baldwin for nearly two months. There, medical care depended on the clock, not the urgency of your condition. If you became sick after a certain hour, guards told you to wait until morning. One night, a friend of mine suffered severe chest pain, difficulty breathing, numbness in his limbs, and uncontrollable vomiting. I immediately alerted a guard, but it took more than 40 agonizing minutes for a nurse to respond. Even then, my friend was never physically examined. As we waited, we had no idea whether he was having a medical emergency that could turn fatal."

HEALTH AND SAFETY OVERSIGHT OF IMMIGRANT DETENTION FACILITIES

Proposed state inspection

- Direct the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) to inspect all privately operated and county-run facilities that house people for federal immigration purposes.
- Review conditions regularly, not only after a complaint or emergency.
- Make inspection findings and corrective-action plans available to the public.
- Establish a process for detained people, families, staff, attorneys, and advocates to submit confidential complaints.

Areas inspectors should examine (not limited to)

- Access to timely medical, dental, and mental-health care
- Food quality, drinking water, sanitation, heating, ventilation, fire safety, and personal hygiene
- Use of solitary confinement and restraints
- Protection from abuse, harassment, and retaliation
- Access to telephones, legal counsel, interpreters, visitation, and religious services
- Conditions for people with disabilities, pregnant people, older adults, and LGBTQ+ detainees
- Procedures for suicide prevention, infectious-disease control, and medical emergencies

HEALTH AND SAFETY OVERSIGHT OF IMMIGRANT DETENTION FACILITIES

Accountability measures

- Impose consequences for repeated or serious violations, including financial penalties or loss of state authorization to operate.
- Require public reporting on inspections, complaints, deaths, serious injuries, medical emergencies, and corrective actions.
- Protect whistleblowers and prohibit retaliation against those who report unsafe conditions.
- Coordinate with appropriate federal oversight agencies while maintaining independent state review.

Opposition to new detention facilities

- Oppose the construction, expansion, or conversion of additional Michigan facilities for immigrant detention.
- Require public notice, hearings, and legislative review before any new detention contract or facility expansion.
- Prevent state or local tax dollars, land, personnel, or infrastructure from subsidizing new federal detention capacity.

HEALTH AND SAFETY OVERSIGHT OF IMMIGRANT DETENTION FACILITIES

HB 5494 - Prohibits the transfer of Michigan state-owned property to ICE for immigration detention purposes. The bill would prohibit the state from selling or transferring property to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) or its subsidiaries and restrict transferred property from being used as an immigration detention center. It also provides for the state to reclaim property if the restrictions are violated.

HB 5494 was introduced on January 29, 2026, and referred to the House Committee on Government Operations.

CONSIDERATIONS

- **Our meetings and asks will primarily depend on whom we meet with and whether they will be returning in January for the next legislative session.**
- **No current bill means that we will advocate for the introduction of new legislation.**
- **Meeting with legislators is ideal, but some may meet with staff instead. This is still valuable.**
- **We will prioritize constituents meeting with their own elected officials.**
- **Advocates/Policy Captains can expect contact sheets, schedules, and scripts.**

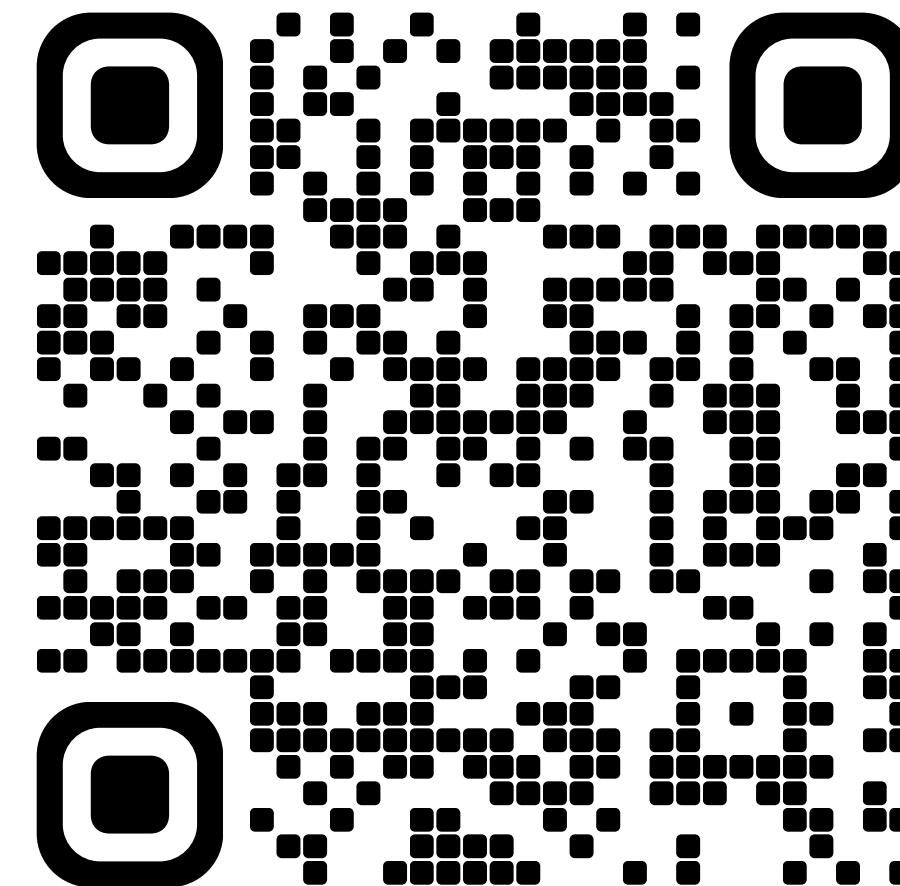


TAKE ACTION

- Share the Policy Platform with your community networks
- Present the Policy Platform to elected officials/political candidates



**Join our Interfaith Pilgrimage
for a Welcoming Michigan**





SIGN UP FOR SNL'S NEWSLETTER



**For more information, please contact Odalis Perales:
perales.o@strangersnolonger.org**



CLOSING REFLECTIONS

- Complete this sentence:
“A welcoming Michigan is a place where _____.”
- Share out:
 - One value you want to carry forward
 - One policy you want to learn more about
 - One action you will take

