

DEFENDING IMMIGRANTS' RIGHTS IN VERMONT

Immigrants' rights are under attack like never before, in Vermont and nationwide. ICE and U.S. Border Patrol continue to target Vermont's immigrant communities—too often with the involvement of local officials.

Vermont must do more to protect the rights and dignity of our immigrant neighbors. Fortunately, there are many things we and our elected officials can do to accomplish that goal. Here are just a few:

1. **Strengthen** the Fair and Impartial Policing (FIP) policy to prohibit state employees from giving federal immigration authorities information about immigrants residing in Vermont or in state custody, and to ensure statewide implementation. Support towns and agencies that seek to adopt strong immigrants' rights protections.
2. **Require** Vermont State Police (VSP) and all other Vermont law enforcement agencies to finally adopt and fully implement robust FIP policies and provide necessary training.
3. **End** Department of Corrections (DOC) contract with federal immigration authorities – Vermont prisons should not house federal immigration detainees. Prohibit DOC from holding anyone for ICE if that person would otherwise be released.
4. **Conduct** a comprehensive review of DMV's unlawful and discriminatory practices and adopt stronger protections to detect and punish abuses. Prohibit Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and all other agencies from turning over Driver Privilege Card application materials to federal immigration authorities absent a subpoena or judicial warrant.
5. **Curtail** Vermont's involvement in ICE and Border Patrol operations. End law enforcement collaboration with Border Patrol through the Stonegarden program. Prohibit state colleges and universities from accepting funds from or providing resources to federal immigration agencies.
6. **Require** state agencies to document and publicly report any contacts with federal immigration officials. Require that the public be informed if the governor approves agreements between local law enforcement and federal immigration agencies under Act 5 (2017-18).
7. **Require** judicial warrants for immigration arrests conducted in Vermont courthouses. Require judicial officers to notify defendants of the presence of ICE agents in the courthouse and provide the opportunity to consult with counsel. Forbid employees of the Vermont Judiciary from providing information to immigration authorities regarding persons involved in court proceedings.
8. **Prohibit** housing discrimination based on immigration status. See H. 758 (2017-2018).
9. **Create** a legal defense fund for indigent immigrants in removal proceedings.
10. **Permit** towns to allow non-citizens to vote in local elections.