



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, February 1, 2017

Contact: Isaac De Luna | idelunavarro@gmail.com | 5059175501

Immigrant Organizers Launch Petition Demanding Local Safety Policies For All Immigrants, Refugees in Albuquerque

Mayor Richard Berry, Albuquerque's City Councilors & People of Conscience Must Affirm Commitment to Create Safety Policies Fight Trump's Dangerous Xenophobic Agenda

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.- [The NM Dream Team has gathered over 700 signatures through an online petition demanding Mayor Richard Berry, Albuquerque City Councilors, and the Albuquerque Public Schools](#) to publicly propose clear policies in Albuquerque that will ensure the safety and wellbeing of all immigrants & refugees in our city and to declare our city as sanctuary of safety that will not allow local police to do the work of immigration agents.

Wednesday, Jan. 25, marked the beginning of Trump's deportation plans after signing a series of executive orders mandating DHS to build a wall with México, emboldening ICE's authority and discretion when persecuting immigrants, calling for collaboration between local authorities and immigration agencies, and undermining sanctuary policies and cities that provide protection for immigrant families across the states.

These policies have all roundly been criticized for years for relying on or leading to increases in racial profiling in the workplace and in communities. In our state, New Mexicans have been fighting against an anti-immigrant Martinez administration for the past six years. Currently Albuquerque is not considered a "sanctuary" city since current Mayor Richard Berry took office in 2009.

At the state legislature, Rep. Patricia Roybal Caballero has announced the introduction of a bill that will halt, state and local law enforcement agencies, from using state or federal resources "for the purpose of detecting or apprehending persons whose only violation of law is that they are persons of foreign citizenship who have entered or are residing in the United States in violation of federal immigration laws."

Gabriela Hernandez, lead LGBTQ organizer with United We Dream and member of the New Mexico Dream Team said:

“These executive actions on immigrants & refugees have made it clear that he will try to rule using race-based intimidation and leave immigrants, refugees, black people and Muslims living in fear of police, their employers and faceless bureaucrats.

“True security for me means my family and loved ones are able to be safe, live freely and thrive. That’s why we’ve launched a petition calling on Mayor Richard Berry to affirm his commitment to creating safety policies for immigrants, Muslims and black people and members of the LGBTQ community.

Felipe Rodriguez, undocumented Albuquerque resident and lead coordinator for the New Mexico Dream Team added,

“Our localities should not let themselves be bullied, by the Trump administration, into sacrificing the safety and unity of our immigrant families. Currently in our state, Rep. Patricia Roybal Caballero introduced a House Bill 116, which halts local authorities across the state from cooperating with immigration agencies for the purpose of identifying and persecuting immigrants.

“An attack on one of us is an attack on all of us — so we will fight to pass these type of policies and find more ways for our communities to thrive because we are #HereToStay and organizing to win in spite of Trump’s agenda of fear and intimidation.”

NM Dream Team and United We Dream are **calling on all members of our community to continue signing the online petition as we continue inch our goal of 1000 signatures**, to organize in their hometowns and learn how to protect each other from deportation. The easiest way to plug in is to **text HereToStay to 877877** and to report activity of ICE agents to **United We Dream’s Deportation Defense Hotline to 844-363-1423**, or by visiting NM Dream Team’s website: nmdreamteam.org

###

[The New Mexico Dream Team](#) is a statewide network committed to create power for multigenerational, undocumented, and mixed status families towards liberation. Through trainings and leadership development, we work to engage our community and allies, in becoming leaders using an intersectional, gender, and racial justice lens—to develop and implement an organizing and advocacy infrastructure for policy change fighting to dismantle systemic oppression.

[United We Dream](#) is the largest immigrant youth-led organization in the nation, a powerful nonpartisan network made up of 55 affiliate organizations in 26 states. UWD organizes and advocates for the dignity and fair treatment of immigrant youth and families, regardless of immigration status. We seek to address the inequities and obstacles faced by immigrant youth and believe that by empowering immigrant youth, we can advance the cause of the entire community—justice for all immigrants.

