



## Board of Commissioners Multnomah County

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February 22, 2017

Members of the Oregon Congressional Delegation,

Thank you for your steadfast advocacy over recent weeks to stand up to actions taken by the new Trump Administration. Your commitment to defending the principles and values of our community has provided hope and encouragement to those of us working locally and those we serve.

The Administration's policy on immigration has been especially troubling. Their destructive rhetoric and harmful executive orders have led to increased fears in Multnomah County that Immigration and Custom Enforcement (ICE) Agency officials will begin a broad effort to arrest, detain, and deport undocumented workers at any location. Such dragnet strategies are adverse to what we stand for as a community. Although ICE officials have not begun to implement such an extensive strategy, the limited public actions they have taken have already caused significant fear and worry among many individuals throughout the county.

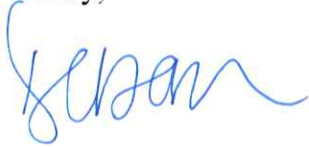
Recent efforts by ICE officials within and around the Multnomah County Courthouses to arrest undocumented persons has raised serious concerns about the long term impact on our justice system. Over the last week we understand that the court has received inquiries from litigants in a variety of cases, civil and family law, all expressing fears about coming to the courthouse. In addition, for our judicial system to function properly, everyone must have confidence they can report criminal activity and seek redress for wrongdoing without fear. We've begun to observe that ICE actions at the courthouse have had a chilling effect on the reporting of crime. Rather than access the justice system, we are concerned that individuals will stay silent out of fear of separating their families or not seek to resolve their legal disputes by accessing the court system. Silencing the victims of crime through intimidation and fear will only benefit criminals and make the work of local law enforcement harder.

While we oppose this executive action in its entirety, we hope you can still work with officials at the Department of Homeland Security and your colleagues in Congress to have the Department maintain their current practice of conducting enforcement actions away from "sensitive locations," such as schools, medical facilities, and places of worship. We also strongly encourage you to have the Department add courthouses as well as the areas immediately surrounding courthouses to this list, for the reasons outlined above.

Immigration policy should be rooted in the values that bind us together as a nation of immigrants. Policy reform should make us safer and ensure that we all prosper. To achieve those goals, new policies need to be deeply considered through public debate and implemented with deliberative resolve.

Thank you for your continued attention to these pressing issues.

Sincerely,



Deborah Kafoury  
Multnomah County Chair



Sharon Meieran  
Multnomah County Commissioner, District 1



Loretta Smith  
Multnomah County Commissioner, District 2



Jessica Vega Pederson  
Multnomah County Commissioner, District 3



Lori Stegmann  
Multnomah County Commissioner, District 4