

August 15, 2018

Dear members of Nebraska's Congressional delegation,

As civic, business, faith, and community leaders our hearts are with the families of O'Neill and the surrounding areas impacted by the destructive ICE raids last week. Our thoughts especially go to the children who came home to find their parents missing.

The outpouring of support by the O'Neill schools, churches, and surrounding community to give safety and love to their neighbors is a resounding testament to the strong community values we see all across Nebraska every day.

The strength of our towns is tied to secure, united families. Time and time again, Nebraska communities have seen how raids like the one in O'Neill and in other communities across the country spread panic and confusion all over a town, making the entire city less safe.

Businesses prosper and communities thrive when everyone is made to feel welcome and safe. Our local law enforcement officers rely on a strong public trust to maintain community safety. Harmful raids make our towns less safe by destroying that trust and making people afraid to report crimes or step forward to help investigations.

How many more communities are going to have to suffer this devastation before our federal leaders take action? We call on Nebraska's members of Congress to take action to fix our outdated and harmful immigration laws so they are rooted in Nebraska's values.

No more communities must suffer what the people of O'Neill are going through. We need immigration laws that remove these cruel fears from our neighborhoods. Hard-working Nebraskans should have the opportunity to build their lives, raise their families, and contribute to our towns in peace. Our united future depends on it.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Steven Abraham, Beth El Synagogue  
Rabbi Teri Appleby, Congregation B'nai Jeshurun – The South Street Temple  
ACLU of Nebraska  
Anti-Defamation League – Plains States Region  
Asian Community and Cultural Center (Lincoln)  
Bluebarn Theatre  
Brown Immigration Law, P.C., L.L.O.

Bulu Box  
Center for People in Need  
Center for Rural Affairs  
Centro Hispano Comunitario de Nebraska (Columbus)  
Charles Drew Health Center  
College of Saint Mary  
Community Crops  
Compassion in Action Inc.  
Completely Kids  
East African Community of Nebraska  
El Centro de las Americas (Lincoln)  
Empowering Families (Scottsbluff)  
Rev. Jane Florence, Senior Pastor, St. Paul United Methodist Church  
Food Bank of Lincoln  
Roger W. Foster, Crete's Mayor  
Grand Island Latino Network  
Rev. Stephen Griffith, President, Faith Coalition of Lancaster County  
Habitat for Humanity of Lincoln  
Pastor Jeff Hagaman, United Church of Christ, 1st Congregational (Crete)  
Heartland Workers Center  
Immigrant Detainee Accompaniment Program  
Immigrant Legal Center  
Inclusive Communities  
inCOMMON Community Development  
J. Brasch Co.  
Rev. Dr. Jim Keck, First Plymouth Congregational UCC (Lincoln)  
Latino Center of the Midlands  
League of Women Voters of Greater Omaha  
League of Women Voters of Lincoln and Lancaster County  
League of Women Voters of Nebraska  
Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska  
Malcolm X Memorial Foundation  
Brian Mass, Bishop, Nebraska Synod ELCA  
Multicultural Coalition of Grand Island  
NAACP - Lincoln Branch  
National Association of Social Workers, Nebraska Chapter  
National Council of Jewish Women Nebraska  
Nebraska Appleseed  
Nebraska Catholic Conference

Nebraska Children and Families Foundation  
Nebraska Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence  
Nebraska Restaurant Association  
Nebraska Retail Federation  
Nebraska State AFL-CIO  
Nebraskans for Peace  
Omaha Children's Choir  
Omaha Together One Community  
OneWorld Community Health Centers (Omaha)  
Planned Parenthood of the Heartland  
Dave Reinecke, Mayor of Schuyler  
Schlegel Center for Service and Justice at Creighton University  
Senator Sue Crawford  
Senator Matt Hansen  
Senator Sara Howard  
Senator Rick Kolowski  
Senator John McCollister  
Senator Mike McDonnell  
Senator Adam Morfeld  
Senator Patty Pansing Brooks  
Senator Dan Quick  
Senator Paul Schumacher  
Senator Tony Vargas  
Senator Anna Wishart  
Rev. Oscar Sinclair, Unitarian Church of Lincoln  
Social Justice Committee of the Unitarian Church of Lincoln  
South of Downtown Community Development Organization (Lincoln)  
Trinidad Center (Lexington)  
The Union for Contemporary Art  
Unity in Action (South Sioux City)  
UNL Define American Chapter  
Voices for Children in Nebraska  
Weitz Family Foundation  
Women's Fund of Omaha  
Youth Care and Beyond  
YWCA Adams County  
YWCA Lincoln