



Statement from the NHMA on Recent ICE Activity in Minnesota

The National Hispanic Medical Association (NHMA) is deeply concerned by recent Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) activity in Minnesota and throughout the country, and the growing impact the agency's actions are having on community safety, public trust and access to health care.

The murder of Alex Pretti, an ICU nurse who served patients at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center, is particularly troubling. As a health care professional, Mr. Pretti dedicated his life to caring for others, often in moments of crisis. His death during a federal immigration enforcement operation underscores the very real risks these activities can pose not only to targeted individuals but to bystanders and community members alike.

NHMA is also alarmed by the detention of young children, particularly five-year-old Liam Ramos, in Minnesota. The involvement of these children in immigration enforcement actions raises serious humanitarian and public health concerns. Experiences of fear, detention and family separation can have lasting consequences on a child's mental, emotional and physical well-being.

From a health care perspective, aggressive enforcement activity has far-reaching effects. When communities experience fear and instability, individuals are less likely to seek medical care, attend preventive appointments, access vaccinations or engage with public health systems. This erosion of trust places entire communities at risk and undermines efforts to promote health equity.

NHMA believes that policies and practices must prioritize human dignity, transparency and the protection of community health. We urge policymakers and federal agencies to carefully assess the public health consequences of violent enforcement operations and to ensure that actions taken do not jeopardize lives, disrupt health care access or further traumatize children and families.

As physicians and public health leaders, we remain committed to advocating for approaches that keep families together, protect frontline health care workers and support the health of all communities.