

**Subject:** Request the Board of Supervisors Take a Proactive Approach to Potential ICE Presence in Humboldt County ie County-Funded Universal Representation Fund for Humboldt Residents and Education for Local Businesses

**Date:** March 4, 2026

**To:** Supervisor Steve Madrone Humboldt County Board of Supervisors, District 5 825 5th Street, Room 111 Eureka, CA 95501 **Email:** [smadrone@co.humboldt.ca.us](mailto:smadrone@co.humboldt.ca.us)

**Dear Supervisor Madrone,**

We are residents of McKinleyville. writing to thank you and the Board for your February 2025 reaffirmation of Measure K and the county's commitment to our sanctuary policies and state law. These protections are vital for the safety and trust of our community.

As the threat of federal immigration enforcement increases, Humboldt County needs to move from a defensive posture to a proactive one. Currently, some of our neighbors may face the life-altering threat of deportation without the basic right to legal counsel. Unlike in the criminal justice system, there is no "public defender" for immigration court, leaving families—including children—to face federal prosecutors alone.

We ask you to lead the Board to establish a **Humboldt County Universal Representation Fund**.

This fund would provide county-allocated grants to local legal nonprofits (such as the Humboldt Immigrant Rights Network or North Coast Legal Aid) to ensure that any Humboldt resident facing deportation has access to a qualified attorney.

**Establishing this fund is a matter of both justice and economic stability for our county:**

**Due Process:** No one should lose their home or family simply because they cannot afford an attorney

**Keeping Families Intact:** When a breadwinner or parent is deported, the local economic and social cost falls back onto the county's social services.

**Court Efficiency:** Representation ensures that cases move through the system fairly and efficiently, reducing the time residents spend in costly detention centers.

Other California counties (LA, San Francisco, Sacramento, Alameda to name several) have already successfully implemented such funds, proving that local government can be the last line of defense for its residents. I urge you to bring this proposal to a future Board meeting for discussion.

Additionally, we request the Board of Supervisors **enlist the Human Rights Commission in showing support for local businesses to know and exercise their rights:**

1. Know the difference between a judicial warrant signed by a judge (required to enter private offices, kitchen, stockrooms, etc.) and an administrative warrant
2. Understand they should "zone" their businesses with signage to clearly and easily delineate "employees only" areas that are off limits to ICE agents.

ICE raids are economically devastating to communities. Our friends and relatives in Minneapolis have provided us with deeper insights into the actual community impacts including empty streets, and closed businesses as a result of ICE raids. Our neighborhood in McKinleyville stands with all the members of our community, and we look forward to seeing the County take this next step in proactively protecting all its residents and our local economy.

Sincerely,

The Neighbors of Baduwat Bluffs, McKinleyville

John Calkins

Lisa Dugan

Stacy Gillespie

Kathleen Clark

Marie Clark

Erika Demers

Cherie Newell

Carol Schmitt