

January 28, 2026 | United States

STUDENTS FOR A NATIONAL HEALTH PROGRAM CONDEMN ICE OPERATIONS AND THEIR HARM TO HEALTH AND HUMAN LIFE NATIONWIDE

In the wake of the recent killings of Renee Good and Alex Pretti, an ICU nurse from Minnesota, Students for a National Health Program (SNaHP) unequivocally condemns the actions and presence of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in communities across the United States. ICE's raids, detentions, and interference in medical care pose a grave threat to public health and human dignity.

In 2025 alone, **at least 32 people died in ICE custody**, making it the deadliest year for immigration detention in more than two decades. Inside detention facilities, detainees have reported enforced isolation, neglect of people with disabilities, denial of access to counsel, and dangerously inadequate medical care. Health care workers describe being intimidated, obstructed, or prevented outright from accessing detained patients.

ICE operations are also disrupting health care delivery nationwide. A 2025 national survey of nearly 700 health care workers across 30 states found that immigration enforcement has led to significant decreases in patient visits, delayed diagnoses of life-threatening illnesses, and interruptions in care. Providers report children presenting to emergency rooms unaccompanied, patients avoiding care due to fear, and widespread psychological distress. SNaHP condemns this presence of ICE operations in cities including but not limited to **Minneapolis, Seattle, Chicago, Los Angeles, New York, Miami, Phoenix, Denver, Atlanta, and communities in Maine.**

As future and current health professionals, we in SNaHP reject fascism, xenophobia, domestic militarization, and violence in all its forms, including the normalization of state violence in the name of immigration enforcement. Medical settings must never be sites of surveillance, intimidation, or punishment, and health care workers must be free to provide care without fear of retaliation or obstruction.

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We stand in solidarity with immigrant communities, detained individuals, health care workers, legal observers, and community members who continue to face the consequences of these policies.

Students for a National Health Program demands:

- Thorough state and federal investigations into the deaths of Keith Porter, Renee Good, Alex Pretti, and all those who have died in ICE custody, and accountability for all those responsible.
- Immediate protections for health care workers, community members, and legal observers who document government actions.
- The restoration and permanent codification of strong sensitive locations protections that prohibit immigration enforcement actions in schools, health care facilities, places of worship, and other essential community spaces, except under the most limited circumstances, with full judicial oversight.
- An end to federal funding for the Department of Homeland Security's militarized enforcement activities.
- Full transparency and accountability for all federal agencies involved in immigration enforcement.

Health care is a **human right**. Systems that deny care, spread fear, and cause preventable death have no place in a just society.

Signed,

Students for a National Health Program National Board

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