



MILWAUKEE DEMOCRATIC LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS

Members of the Wisconsin State Assembly and the Wisconsin State Senate

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Milwaukee Caucus Stands in Support of Day Without Latinxs, Immigrants and Refugees

Members of the Milwaukee Democratic Caucus offered the following statement in support of the Day without Latinxs, Immigrants, and Refugees:

“As citizens and elected leaders, we have a moral obligation to defend our neighbors from hate, discrimination, and violence.

“Today, we stand arm in arm with our neighbors throughout the state in calling for Milwaukee County Sheriff David Clarke to reject enrollment in the federal 287g program, which would change the mission of our deputies and have them focus on federal immigration.

“The top priority for our law enforcement officials is to provide security and safety to all residents. Participation in the federal 287g program will undoubtedly put our most vulnerable residents at greater risk because they would suddenly fear routine interactions with those who are supposed to keep them safe.

“Across the nation, programs like 287g don’t hold much weight with local law enforcement agencies. In fact, less than .003% of local law enforcement agencies have signed agreements with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to participate in the 287g program. Further, a recent study that interviewed 750 police chiefs across the United States, showed serious concerns and reluctance on involving their staff in immigration enforcement*.

“As state elected officials, we serve our constituents and protect the values of our great state and nation. By rejecting the federal 287g program, we can provide Milwaukee County residents the security and peace of mind they need so they can trust that, in times of need, they can reach out to law enforcement without fear of retaliation from their government.”

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*University of Chicago Press: “Policing Immigrants: Local Law Enforcement on the Front Lines”