



IMMIGRANT RIGHTS | TAKE ACTION

# Alaskans detained by ICE must get a bond hearing in Alaska



## THE ISSUE:

The ACLU of Alaska is observing an increase in workplace-based immigration enforcement, reflecting the federal government's increased focus on workplaces as locations to pursue its nationwide mass deportation agenda. When people are detained by immigration officials in Alaska, they are typically held in the state for no more than 72 hours before being transferred to ICE detention facilities in the Lower 48. These actions threaten Alaska families, our workforce, and our communities at large.

## THE ASK:

Please contact Alaska's federal Congressional Delegation (Senators Lisa Murkowski and Dan Sullivan, and Representative Nick Begich) with the following request:

*Contact the U.S. Department of Justice's Executive Office of Immigration Review (EOIR) to request that Alaskans who are detained by ICE can get a bond hearing while still in Alaska to avoid transfer to a detention center in the Lower 48.*

## BACKGROUND

As part of the mass deportation agenda, we are seeing an uptick in ICE agents in Alaska, especially in workplaces. **People being picked up in workforce-related immigration enforcement are generally hardworking, longtime Alaskans with no criminal history.**

These enforcement actions are uprooting invaluable members of our community who have families, jobs, and strong ties to Alaska. **These actions are not about deporting dangerous people who pose a threat to public safety.**

**Workplace-related immigration enforcement puts pressure on Alaska's already strained labor force.**

- People who fear immigration enforcement at their jobsite have reportedly stopped coming to work, creating challenges for employers across sectors.
- Data from 2023 shows that immigrants make up almost 11% of Alaska's workforce and fill needs in key sectors, including construction, hospitality, food service, education, and healthcare.

**When people are detained by immigration officials in Alaska; they are typically held in the state for no more than 72 hours before being sent to ICE detention facilities in the Lower 48.**

- Once Alaskans are sent out of state for immigration proceedings, **it becomes much more challenging for their families to communicate with their loved ones and for local counsel to represent them** in their immigration proceedings.



The Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) at the Department of Justice manages immigration courts across the country, and is tasked with scheduling immigration-related hearings including requests for release from ICE custody on bond (immigration bail).

- **It is crucial that Alaskans have the opportunity to request a bond hearing in front of an Immigration Judge while they are in Alaska.** We are seeking the help of our Congressional delegation to make sure that this option exists for Alaskans.

## CONTACT INFORMATION FOR THE ALASKA CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

### **Senator Lisa Murkowski**

(202)-224-6665 (Washington, D.C.)

(907) 271-3735 (Anchorage)

[Send an email message](#)

### **Representative Nick Begich**

(202) 225-5765 (Washington, D.C.)

(907) 921-6575 (Anchorage)

[Send an email message](#)

### **Senator Dan Sullivan**

(202)-224-3004 (Washington, D.C.)

(907) 271-5915 (Anchorage)

[Send an email message](#)

## SAMPLE PHONE SCRIPT

“Hello, I’d like to leave a message for the [Senator/ Representative], please?”

“Ok, go ahead.”

“My name is [first and last name] and I’m a voting constituent from [community name], area code [state area code]. I’m calling to request that the [Senator/ Representative] contact the U.S. Department of Justice’s Executive Office of Immigration Review to request that Alaskans who are detained by ICE can get a bond hearing while still in Alaska to avoid transfer to a detention center in the Lower 48.

I’m deeply concerned about immigration enforcement activities happening in Alaska. When people are picked up by ICE here, they only spend a few days in Alaska before being sent somewhere in the Lower 48, where they are separated from their family and local legal counsel. It is crucial that Alaskans have the opportunity to request a bond hearing in front of an Immigration Judge while they are in Alaska. I am asking the [Senator/Representative] to make sure that this option exists for Alaskans.

Again, I’m asking that the [Senator/ Representative] contact the Executive Office of Immigration Review and make sure Alaskans can have a bond hearing while they are still in Alaska to avoid unnecessary transfer to a detention center in the Lower 48.

Thank you for taking my message, have a good day.”

## SAMPLE EMAIL MESSAGE

Subject: Alaskans detained by ICE must have a bond hearing while in Alaska

Dear [Senator/ Representative],

My name is [first and last name] and I'm a voting constituent from [community name], area code [state area code]. I'm calling to request that you contact the U.S. Department of Justice's Executive Office of Immigration Review (EOIR) to request that Alaskans who are detained by ICE can get a bond hearing while still in Alaska to avoid transfer to a detention center in the Lower 48.

I'm deeply concerned about immigration enforcement activities happening in Alaska. [Provide 1-2 sentences about your personal experience or why you care]. When people are picked up here, they only spend a few days in Alaska before being sent somewhere in the Lower 48, where they are separated from their family, and local legal counsel. Alaska is seeing an uptick of immigration enforcement in communities across the state, particularly in workplaces. This puts pressure on Alaska's already strained labor force as fearful workers are scared to report to work, or are absent from work while they are detained out of state, while their immigration case proceeds. Data from 2023 shows that immigrants make up almost 11% of Alaska's workforce and fill needs in key sectors, including construction, hospitality, food service, education, and healthcare.

It is crucial that Alaskans have the opportunity to request a bond hearing in front of an Immigration Judge while they are in Alaska. Please contact EOIR to make sure that this option exists for Alaskans as soon as possible.

Thank you,  
[your name]

## MORE RESOURCES ON IMMIGRATION

The ACLU of Alaska has many resources for immigrants, business owners, and concerned community members to know your rights while interacting with immigration enforcement officials, as well as Family Safety Planning documents. [Access the resources here.](#)

## QUESTIONS?

Contact Cindy Woods, Senior Immigration Law and Policy Fellow at [cwoods@acluak.org](mailto:cwoods@acluak.org), or Mike Garvey, Policy Director, at [mgarvey@acluak.org](mailto:mgarvey@acluak.org).