



WISCONSIN STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Brienne Brown

43RD ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Rep. Brown Delivers First Speech to the Assembly

MADISON - Today, Representative Brienne Brown (D-Whitewater) delivered her first speech on the Assembly floor in opposition to Assembly Bill 24, relating to county sheriff assistance with certain federal immigration functions and voted against the bill. Representative Brown released the following remarks:

"I rise today to voice my opposition to this bill on a number of fronts.

"We are confronting not only a humanitarian crisis, but a constitutional crisis. Every day in the news, we hear about ICE picking up our neighbors and starting the process of deportation without due process, simply because they speak Spanish or have said something with which the Trump administration disagrees. ICE has appropriated the role of judge and jury, and they are making reckless mistakes. ICE is detaining and deporting people who legally reside within the United States and should not be ripped from their families and our communities. Mr. Speaker, your bill would increase the ongoing chaos at the expense of our constitutional rights. This does not sound like law and order, this sounds like unlawful chaos.

"We must not pass this unconstitutional bill.

"Everyone within the United States - not just citizens - everyone is guaranteed due process, as laid out in the 5th and 14th amendments of the Constitution. Moreover, the Trump administration is trying to nullify the 14th amendment, which guarantees birthright citizenship - creating an even bigger mess for law enforcement. This bill would not allow people to go through the constitutionally-sanctioned legal process. It would instead notify ICE when someone has simply been accused of and arrested for a crime. What happened to innocent until proven guilty? I say again, this isn't law and order. This is unlawful chaos.

"When I speak with law enforcement officers in my district, they complain of being underfunded and overworked. For them to do their jobs right, they need to build and maintain trust with all the members of our community. This bill chips away at local control and forces officers to report the mere suspicion of immigration status. If this bill were enacted, the police would lose the trust of their communities as soon as they notify ICE.

"Their job is to serve and protect, not to surveil and detain. Mr. Speaker, every time I meet with county employees in the 43rd, they tell me how desperate they are for skilled translators and



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money to pay them. With those language barriers, how will we communicate this bill adequately so people understand they won't be deported for reporting a crime? Or how will we justify to our communities that someone merely accused of a crime can be deported? I suspect non-English speakers will encourage their neighbors to avoid law enforcement and not go to them in times of desperate need. Sheriffs around the state will forfeit the relationships they have worked to build and will have no mechanisms to repair them.

"Our Federal Government is doing very unpopular things right now - in addition to hurtling us into a recession. I refuse to aid and abet this ridiculous bill that strips local control, disregards the constitution, and hurts not just the people who would be deported, but their families, their employers, their neighbors, and the entire state. Over and above the politics involved here, the chilling effect of this legislation would tank our agriculture industry. In 2022, immigrants contributed \$383 billion to federal taxes and \$196 billion to state and local taxes. In fact, the undocumented immigrant population alone will lower the deficit by nearly 15 trillion dollars over the next decade, according to the Congressional Budget Office. Our state, enriched by its diversity, derives strength from our collective ability to welcome people from all walks of life, including those fleeing hardship and persecution.

"We need immigrants in this state, and they belong here. Juntos somos más fuertes. Together we are stronger. The vote is NO."

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