

**Rutgers University Senate**  
**Resolution in Support of Education Without Intimidation**  
*for consideration and vote at the March 27, 2026 RU Senate meeting*

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A resolution expressing concern over nationwide federal enforcement activity affecting students, staff, and faculty, and calling on Rutgers University to adopt clear protocols to protect safety, privacy, and rights, and to end contracts with companies that are enabling ICE deportations.

*Whereas*, the presence of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents, or other immigration authorities, on or near campus disrupts the educational mission of the University and creates a hostile and dangerous climate for vulnerable members of our community; and

*Whereas*, throughout the academic year, members of the Rutgers community have grown significantly concerned over the impacts of increased federal enforcement activity near college campuses and other communities around the country; and

*Whereas*, a significant portion of the Rutgers student body, staff and faculty belong to communities primarily affected by heightened enforcement and policy uncertainty. Members of the student body in particular consistently fear for their safety, privacy, and well-being while pursuing their studies; and

*Whereas*, at Columbia University ICE agents have entered a residence hall and detained a student, and unclear institutional protocols governing interactions with external enforcement agencies and handling of student information, that call into question the protection of student rights, privacy, and access to educational resources; and

*Whereas*, while the Oregon state legislature<sup>1</sup> has mandated that schools provide notice when ICE officers are on the campus and other institutions have established clear protocols surrounding potential campus visits<sup>2</sup> Rutgers University, more specifically its University Public Safety unit, does not<sup>3</sup>; and

*Whereas*, Rutgers University is a member of the Presidents' Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration, a nonpartisan, nonprofit educational and advocacy organization that brings together college and university leaders around immigration issues impacting students, campuses, and

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<sup>1</sup>[House Bill 4079 in the Oregon State Legislature directs school district boards and governing bodies of institutions of higher education to adopt policies that address how the school district or the institution of higher education will respond when a federal immigration authority enters school property or a campus. Passed the House and Senate, waiting to be signed into law.](https://www.opb.org/article/2026/03/08/lawmakers-pass-new-notification-rules-for-schools-when-ice-comes/)

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<sup>2</sup> [Columbia University: Public Safety Website](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Rutgers University Public Safety Website](#)

communities;<sup>4</sup> and key individuals at Rutgers University are active members of the Undocumented Community of Practice of the Higher Education Immigration Portal<sup>5</sup>; and

**Whereas**, as fears and uncertainty continue to affect our student, staff and faculty community, there is a need for reassurance and protocols from the institution to best support students, staff and faculty well-being and student ability to pursue their education without fear or intimidation; and

**Whereas**, other institutions such as the University of Minnesota have used university police departments and outside law enforcement to bring punitive measures against those protesting ICE presence on campus; and

**Whereas**, the Federal Administration's mass deportation apparatus depends on private corporations to provide lodging, transportation, surveillance technology, aviation services, and staging facilities; therefore

**Be it here resolved**, that the Rutgers University Senate expresses concern over increased fears caused by external federal enforcement agencies around the country, and affirms its responsibility to advocate for the safety, rights, and well-being of all students, staff and faculty regardless of identity; and

**Be it here resolved**, that Rutgers University adopt clear, transparent, and protective institutional protocols<sup>6</sup> that ensure the safety, privacy, and rights of all members of the Rutgers University community, and commits to work with all University stakeholders, including RUSA, UndocuRutgers, other student leadership and membership bodies at Rutgers Newark and Camden, and faculty and staff unions, to best craft measures in a way that serves and protects all; and

**Be it further resolved**, that Rutgers University officials reaffirm their commitment to FERPA requirements for all student record releases, guaranteeing that students' personal information is protected, that consent is properly obtained, and that students are fully informed about their rights regarding the access and disclosure of their educational records; and

**Be it further resolved**, that the University Senate supports the Union of Rutgers Administrators (URA-AFT) call to make Rutgers University a sanctuary campus;<sup>7</sup> and to designate non-public zones of safety on campus that students, staff, and workers can access during the threat of external

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<sup>4</sup> [Presidents' Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration Impact Report](#)

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.higheredimmigrationportal.org/undocumented-community-of-practice-and-action/success-directory-submit/>

<sup>6</sup> What we mean by institutional protocols are the specific guidelines and procedures Rutgers will follow when ICE shows up on campus: whether ICE agents will be allowed to enter University property, how the university will handle enforcement requests—for example barring entry without a judicial warrant, whether the university will issue emergency alerts or establish non-public zones of safety, where the zones will be located, who can access them, what are the legal protections, and whether immigration agents could enter them with warrants?

<sup>7</sup> [See Immigrants Rising, URA-AFT: Rutgers Should Be A Sanctuary Campus](#)

<sup>5</sup> <https://mndaily.com/top-story/dozens-detained-outside-of-graduate-hotel-wednesday-night-following-protest/01/29/2026/eicmndaily-com/>

enforcement activity, and to work with all campus partners to communicate these safe zones to members of the Rutgers community and legal personnel in order to establish clear protocols for response to ICE and related activities; and

***Be it further resolved,*** that Rutgers University treat ICE presence on campus as an emergency, and as with other emergencies will respond by issuing an electronic emergency alert to the community; and

***Be it further resolved,*** that Rutgers University release clear messaging affirming its duties to protect the safety and liberties of all members of the university community in their expressions against immigration enforcement, including but not limited to preventing the use of university law enforcement against members of the community protesting against immigration enforcement; and

***Be it further resolved,*** that Rutgers University widely circulate Know Your Rights information to students, staff and faculty, and instruct Rutgers University Police to not enforce immigration law and to develop an emergency preparedness and community policing<sup>8</sup> plan to assist students and employees in case of an immigration raid or detention; and

***Be it finally resolved*** that the University ensure that its policies, contracts, and partnerships do not contribute to a climate of fear that undermines the physical safety of students, academic freedom, or the free exchange of ideas, so that all members of the campus community can participate fully in the life of the institution without fear of immigration enforcement.

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<sup>8</sup> At the moment, RU has instructed faculty, staff and students to call campus police in the event of ICE showing up on campus, but simply telling people to do this is not adequate. Some directly impacted constituencies have expressed discomfort because they don't have relationships with campus police officers and don't know whether they can be trusted not to cooperate with ICE. A more effective approach would be to develop a community policing strategy where campus police officers would be matched with specific schools, departments, buildings, dormitories and would sit down with key leaders, get to know each other and develop plans and protocols together. Community policing is the development of collaborative relationships between law enforcement and individuals and groups within the community. It takes effort and time to build the trust required for effective partnership and collective problem-solving; this is especially important for handling challenging situations like ICE showing up on campus. <https://police.sdsu.edu/about/community-policing-philosophy>, <https://www.police.psu.edu/cop>, <https://admin.umd.edu/enhancing-safety-and-community-policing-university-maryland>,