



January 22, 2025

Dear Colleagues,

Yesterday, the Department of Homeland Security rescinded a long-standing policy that previously designated certain places, such as schools, churches, and hospitals, as “sensitive locations” where immigration enforcement actions were typically avoided. While this change understandably raises concerns, we want to assure you that **Cerritos College remains dedicated to providing a safe, welcoming, and supportive environment for all students.**

We are closely monitoring the effects of this policy change and are working with local and state officials to understand how it may impact our students, faculty, staff, and community. **At this time, our current practices regarding federal immigration enforcement remain unchanged.**

Legal Protections for Our Students

Education is a cornerstone of opportunity in our nation, as guaranteed by the Equal Protection Clause of the U.S. Constitution, which ensures that all individuals, regardless of their background or status, are entitled to equal treatment under the law. Cerritos College is committed to upholding this promise for all students, protecting their right to education and fair treatment.

California state laws, including the [California Values Act \(Senate Bill 54\)](#), continue to guide our institutional policies and procedures. These laws prevent state and local resources from being used for federal immigration enforcement in most cases and ensure that public spaces, such as schools, remain “safe zones” where immigration enforcement activities are restricted.

Resources and Support for Our Community

Cerritos College is here to support our diverse community. We provide resources such as access to legal services and counseling, and we are holding a workshop on immigration rights for students and the community next Wednesday, January 29. Additionally, in early February, we will host an employee workshop on immigration rights in partnership with The Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA) to provide tailored support for faculty and staff.

If you have questions or are unsure about specific circumstances, please reach out to any member of the Executive Council team or our Chief of Police, Don Mueller.

We will continue to share updates as more information becomes available.

Jose

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