

Special Order of Business - 2026
PROTECTION OF IMMIGRANT RIGHTS

WHEREAS, nearly 70 percent of the milk produced in Wisconsin is generated by around 900 farms where at least 70 percent of the labor is undocumented workers (estimated to be around 8,700 persons);

WHEREAS, many of these workers have been long-term reliable employees who have worked for 20 and more years for the same farm;

WHEREAS, roughly 70 percent of US farm labor are immigrants and it is estimated that at least 35 percent are undocumented (Successful Farming, Sept. 2025, pa. 56);

WHEREAS, additionally, thousands of immigrants, both documented and undocumented, in Wisconsin also work in and are employed in both the fruit and vegetable farming, in cheese processing plants, in the canning industry, in both the packing plants and custom-slaughter/butcher markets, all related to agriculture, not to mention healthcare (hospitals, assisted and senior housing), the construction industry (roofing and framing), service and leisure industry (hotels and restaurants), etc., all of which where we are facing serious labor shortages in an aging population;

WHEREAS, under the Trump Administration, Homeland Security has and is issuing Delegation of Immigration Authority [287 (g)] through the Immigration and Nationality Act to state and local police and sheriff departments to act as Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers in one or more of four capacities [issue (administrative) warrants in violation of due process, unlawfully detain and imprison, task force, etc.] of both documented and undocumented immigrants;

WHEREAS, in our localities, the role of the police is to protect safety and security of local residents and property, inclusive of keeping our roads safe, and deter criminal activity, but for our local police to assume a federal function related to immigration control, it detracts from that role of public safety and undermines our funding of our local police and community's trust in local police;

WHEREAS, presently there are as many as 17 counties that have either signed or are negotiating signing of 287 (g) agreements;

WHEREAS, presently, more than 70 percent of immigrants picked up for deportation by ICE have no criminal convictions in the US,

WHEREAS, many, if not most, of the immigrants taken for deportation have spouses/partners and children who are US citizens that result in the break-up of these families and imposed hardship on them and this represents an anti-family policy;

WHEREAS, both the reduction of Title IV of the "farm bill" for nutrition funding, that is partially used to purchase produce from farmers (c. \$2 – 3 billion annually), and the reduction in funding for Medicaid are being used to fund increased ICE appropriations to finance 287 (g); and

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Assembly and Senate have bills (AB 24 and S 57) that are presently being considered to require local police and sheriffs to act in some capacity as ICE agents and, if these police departments refuse, state funding for their support of security will be denied;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Farmers Union opposes any and all involvement of our local police and sheriffs in acting as agents for ICE and signing 287 (g) agreements for such; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Wisconsin Farmers Union opposes state laws that promote or require local police to act in ICE's capacity and often result in the forced breakup of and hardship for immigrant families.