



## **National Cancer Legal Services Network (“NCLSN”) Statement of Solidarity**

As a network of lawyers, social workers, patient navigators, researchers, and advocates across the nation who fight for access to free legal services for people with cancer and their loved ones, we have watched in horror ICE’s escalation of violence and their continued attacks on noncitizens in Minnesota. Minnesota is home to one of NCLSN’s partner organizations, Cancer Legal Care, an organization that engages the law to resolve the complex challenges facing people and communities affected by cancer.

The harm inflicted by the current Administration’s actions against immigrants has fatal consequences for both those in active cancer treatment and their families. ICE agents have entered hospitals and health clinics which have been stripped of protections of a sensitive location. These actions have disrupted cancer care across entire communities. Cancer patients are missing medically necessary appointments not only due to immigration status concerns, but because ICE enforcement practices create widespread fear of violence, detention, and misidentification. This chilling effect extends beyond undocumented immigrants to U.S. citizens and lawfully present individuals who fear being wrongfully targeted while seeking lifesaving medical care. The chilling effect these actions have on people living with cancer—and those who support them—is profound.

The NCLSN seeks to ensure that the health, safety, and equality of everyone impacted by cancer is protected, including patients, their loved ones, and healthcare workers. This is not just an isolated happening in Minnesota. People with cancer across the country are afraid to go to their chemotherapy appointments and other treatment. We are hearing stories from our members about patients missing appointments out of fear of ICE’s actions in New York, Virginia, and elsewhere. We urge the Department of Homeland Security (ICE) to return to their previous guidance discouraging immigration enforcement action in sensitive places including hospitals.

Since its inception in 2009, NCLSN has fought to ensure that everyone, regardless of income and immigration status, has access to the cancer care they need. We provide free legal help so that patients and their families can focus on their health and wellbeing rather than on their legal issues. Rooted in the power of partnership and the belief that the law can be used to address and improve social drivers of health, including racism and a safe living environment, we are proud to stand in solidarity with Minnesotans and others around

the country who are fighting against unjust and cruel ICE enforcement that prevents immigrants with cancer from obtaining necessary and life-saving care.

We stand committed to protecting those most harmed by policies that threaten access to medical care and fundamental rights, and we will not remain silent as people on the path to cancer survivorship have their care disrupted and their rights stripped away. We will continue to fight for a better future for the most vulnerable in Minnesota and throughout the country.

In solidarity (list in formation),

The National Cancer Legal Services Network (NCLSN):

*LegalHealth, a division of the New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG), New York*

*Cancer Legal Care, Minnesota*

*Association of Oncology Social Work (AOSW), Illinois*

*The Tanya Project: A Medical-Legal Partnership for Women with Cancer, California*

*Cancer Nation, National*

*Saddia A. Khan, Supervising Attorney, Cancer Justice, Public Counsel, California*

*Randy Susan Meyers & Jessica Brilliant Keener, Co-Chairs, Massachusetts Writers for Democratic Action, Massachusetts*

To learn more about Minnesota legal community's response to the devastation that is happening, please visit the Minnesota State Bar Association and Minnesota Justice Foundation. To learn more about the NCLSN, visit <https://legalhealth.org/nclsn/>.