



June 7, 2017

David Marin  
Field Office Director  
Enforcement and Removal Operations  
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement  
300 North Los Angeles Ave., Room 7631  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

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Dear Mr. Marin,

United Teachers Los Angeles (UTLA) writes this letter to strongly urge Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) grant Romulo Avelica-Gonzalez (A# 092 776 645) a stay of removal. Mr. Avelica should be immediately released to his family and community. Mr. Avelica has lived in the United States over 25 years. He is father of four children who are U.S. citizens. Separating him from his family would cause great suffering to his wife and children.

UTLA represents 33,000 educators and Health and Human Services Professionals employed by Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) and 1,000 educators employed at independent charter schools. UTLA has learned that Mr. Avelica was arrested whilst bringing his children to a Los Angeles school. Mr. Avelica's daughter and a student witnessed her father's arrest. From the video his daughter captured of the arrest of her father, his daughter is in extreme distress.

UTLA is alarmed to learn that ICE's LA Field Office may have violated and undermined the 2011 Sensitive Locations Policy which designates schools as protected zones where immigration enforcement action should be avoided as it would unnecessarily alarm the local community. The manner in which ICE pursued near schools Mr. Avelica caused a great disruption to the school community.

LAUSD has taken significant steps to support the large immigrant student and family population in Los Angeles schools. UTLA supports the February 2016 LAUSD Board Resolution, "LA Unified Campuses as Safe Zones and Resource Center for Students and Families Threatened by Immigration Enforcement" and the May 2017 LAUSD Board Resolution "Reaffirmation of Los Angeles Unified School District as Safe Zones for Families Threatened by Immigration Enforcement." These resolutions are important to the safety and well-being of all students and their families. Educators know that students must feel safe at school as part of creating the best learning environment in our classrooms.

In addition, UTLA opposes any threat that undermines our students' right to attend school regardless of immigration status or that of their parents. It is fundamental that all students have equal protection to attend school and have a dignified education.

UTLA stands with all students and their families. We will rise to protect and take action against attacks on the vulnerable in our school community.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter.

Sincerely,

Alex Caputo-Pearl  
President, United Teachers Los Angeles