

## **A RESOLUTION PROTECTING EQUAL ACCESS TO PUBLIC SERVICES, ENSURING THE SECURITY OF K-12 AND MICHIGAN TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY STUDENTS, AND GOVERNING THE USE OF COUNTY PROPERTY FOR CIVIL IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT**

**WHEREAS**, the Houghton County Board of Commissioners is committed to ensuring that all residents, regardless of their national origin or immigration status, can access essential public services including public healthcare, public schools and universities, law enforcement, judicial services, emergency services, and social services without fear of retaliation or displacement;

**WHEREAS**, the effective functioning of county government depends on a relationship of trust between the community and county employees, and such trust is undermined when county facilities and resources are utilized to facilitate federal civil immigration enforcement;

**WHEREAS**, the Fourth Amendment of the United States Constitution protects all people from unreasonable searches and seizures and requires that warrants be supported by probable cause and signed by a neutral judge or magistrate;

**WHEREAS**, administrative warrants, such as ICE Forms I-200 and I-205, are not signed by judges and do not grant the legal authority to enter non-public areas of government buildings without consent;

**WHEREAS**, the Tenth Amendment of the United States Constitution prohibits the federal government from commandeering state and local resources or personnel to carry out federal regulatory programs such as civil immigration enforcement therefore ensuring tax dollars paid by Houghton County residents are utilized solely for our residents and not for federal immigration enforcement;

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Plyler v. Doe* (1982) that no state may deny a child a K-12 public education based on their immigration status, as this also violates the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution;

**WHEREAS**, the Equal Protection Clause states that no State shall deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws and illegal aliens are "persons" protected by the Due Process Clauses of the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments of the United States Constitution;

**WHEREAS**, the Due Process Clauses of the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments of the United States Constitution apply to all individuals within U.S. jurisdiction, regardless of their legal status, and guarantees fundamental procedural rights, including the right to a hearing, representation, and the ability to contest removal in court;

**WHEREAS**, the Michigan State Board of Education affirmed on January 13, 2026, that "no child should fear that going to school or stepping outside their home could result in their family being torn apart";

**WHEREAS**, the presence of immigration enforcement at or near bus stops, school playgrounds, or administrative offices discourages attendance and inflicts irreversible psychological trauma on the student population;

**WHEREAS**, Michigan Technological University is a cornerstone of Houghton County's economy and cultural identity, attracting talented students, researchers, and faculty from all over the world with an alumni base spanning six continents and 100+ countries;

**WHEREAS**, federal law under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) protects student records from being shared without a judicial subpoena or court order;

**WHEREAS**, the safety and privacy of the student body, particularly within residential dormitories and research facilities, are paramount to maintaining the University's academic standing and its ability to attract global talent;

**WHEREAS**, the county recognizes that any enforcement action targeting students or faculty on campus disrupts the educational mission and creates a hostile environment that threatens the county's long-term economic stability;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Houghton County Board of Commissioners hereby prohibits the use of county-owned, leased, or managed property, including airports, administrative buildings, parking lots, and parks, for the purpose of staging or conducting civil immigration enforcement operations without a valid judicial warrant signed by a state or federal judge;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that federal immigration agents shall not be permitted to enter non-public areas of county facilities for the purpose of civil immigration enforcement unless required by law or authorized by a valid judicial warrant or court order;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Houghton County employees, contractors, and agents are prohibited from voluntarily assisting in civil immigration enforcement actions occurring on county property, including the sharing of non-public information, unless specifically required by state or federal law;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that all K-12 public schools, school buses, bus stops, and Michigan Technological University residential and academic facilities are recognized as "sensitive locations" where county resources shall not be used to facilitate civil enforcement that disrupts the educational environment;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that county agencies shall prioritize the safety of students during enforcement emergencies by coordinating with educational institutions to ensure that children are released only to authorized emergency contacts, thereby preventing unnecessary placement into the state foster care system;

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the County Clerk is authorized and directed to provide notice of this resolution to all County Department Heads, the Sheriff's Office, and local educational boards to ensure the uniform protection of all Houghton County residents.

**ADOPTED BY THE HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

This \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026.

**Moved by Commissioner:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Supported by Commissioner:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Vote:**

Yeas: \_\_\_\_\_

Nays: \_\_\_\_\_