

B. Kennedy Kent
District 25

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State Representative
B. Kennedy Kent
Ohio House—District 25

Committees:

Community and Family Advancement
Criminal Justice
Government Accountability and Oversight
Health

September 8, 2017

Governor John Kasich
Riffe Center, 30th Floor
77 South High Street
Columbus, OH 43215-6117

Dear Gov. Kasich,

On September 6, 2017 you offered a glimmer of hope while speaking out against the decision that the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (D.A.C.A.) program will be phased out. “We want all the immigrants to come to Ohio, because we know how much they contribute to America,” you said in an interview with CBS This Morning.

But while you were on TV, Central Ohio resident, Edith Espinal, is being detained for deportation by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (I.C.E.). The mother of two U.S. citizen’s, with no criminal record, Espinal sought refuge in the Columbus Mennonite Church when faced with deportation by I.C.E. officials.

A similar, high profile case earlier this year involving Maribel Trujillo-Diaz, who had four children who were citizens, garnered support from U.S. Senators Rob Portman (R-OH) and Sherrod Brown (D-OH), but ended in deportation after requesting a stay. At that time, you said, “We have enough broken families”.

Respectfully, the words that you use to express your position on what is happening in our country sound good, but what is really being done?

Mothers are being deported and leaving their children behind. Fathers are leaving their entire families behind with no financial support. Uniting people and bringing them together in this time of divisiveness is important. We should be putting family first.

I applaud you for separating yourself from President Donald Trump in front of a national TV audience, but taxpayers in Ohio need more than words. The people we represent, and the people you called to come here, deserve a leader who will work hard with the legislature, or independently through executive order, to ensure that honest, caring people who are fighting for the American Dream have a safe place – a sanctuary – to call home in Ohio.

I urge you to issue an executive order in Ohio, barring police and resources in Ohio from being used to enforce unstable federal immigration policy. Your executive order will give a clear answer on what Ohio will do to protect our immigrants.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bernadine Kennedy Kent". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Bernadine Kennedy Kent