

Testimony to Senate March 31, 2026 re ICE /police action March 11

My name is Sylvia Knight. I live in Burlington, VT with my partner.

As allies of Migrant Justice, my partner and I were present on March 11 at the Dorset Street site for about 3 ½ hours where many were gathered in peaceful solidarity with the immigrants inside the house.

When ICE agents came late in the afternoon with a judicial warrant, Migrant Justice staff told them that the person named in the warrant was NOT in the house. ICE moved ahead to raid the house with help from state police in riot gear. They worked closely, wrestling and throwing people guarding the door off the steps; they and ICE worked with a long board to force the door open, enabling ICE to invade the home with guns.

I was deeply horrified to witness this abuse of police power, terrifying to many, arresting 3 residents who were *not named* on the warrant.

Police /ICE collaboration, egregious violation of FIPP law, unnecessary police action to violently break into a home, and so-called *collateral* arrests: all signal fascism and police state. We must resist.

Please pass H.849 and S.209. Thank you for hearing us.