

October 21, 2026

The Honorable Bob Ferguson
Governor, State of Washington
Office of the Governor
PO Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Re: Unlawful Disclosure of Washington Driver and Vehicle Information for Immigration Enforcement Purposes

Dear Governor Ferguson:

We, the undersigned organizations and community members from across Washington, write to urge your administration to take immediate action to stop the continued disclosure of Department of Licensing (DOL) data for purposes of civil immigration enforcement.

Washington has long recognized that residents should be able to access state services, drive to work, take their children to school, seek medical care, and participate in civic life without fear that information they provide to state agencies will later be used in ways that violate Washington's law and policy. These principles are reflected in the Keep Washington Working Act and in numerous policies adopted by state agencies to prevent the misuse of state resources.

Washington law, agency policy, and data-access agreements, including the Washington State Patrol's user agreement for ACCESS, impose broad restrictions on sharing information for civil immigration enforcement, including prohibitions on using state resources to assist federal immigration activities, limits on disclosure of DOL data, criminal and civil penalties for misuse, and express bans on using state databases to investigate, locate, or apprehend individuals for immigration-related violations.

Despite these stated restrictions, publicly reported incidents and documented cases show that Washington residents continue to be identified and located through information obtained from DOL data and related information-sharing systems. [Recent reporting and public records obtained by the University of Washington Center for Human Rights](#) have documented a pattern in which federal immigration authorities continue to obtain Washington driver and vehicle information and use that information to identify, locate, and arrest Washington residents for civil immigration enforcement purposes or intimidate Washington residents who support their immigrant neighbors. According to UWCHR's most recent findings, the number of verified arrests linked to Washington DOL data queries has continued to grow despite efforts to suspend individual ORIs

and impose additional user restrictions on what data is retrievable through WSP's ACCESS/Nlets database.

The problem is no longer a question of whether safeguards exist on paper. The problem is that existing safeguards are not preventing access to Washington state information from being used in ways that are inconsistent with state law and policy.

This issue extends beyond immigration enforcement. It is fundamentally about whether Washington will permit state databases, taxpayer-funded information systems, and personal information entrusted to state agencies to be used in ways that undermine legislative protections and public confidence in government.

We therefore, respectfully, urge your administration to take the following steps:

- Immediately suspend access to DOL data containing personal information to any agency or law enforcement authority engaging in or supporting immigration enforcement to provide the relief our communities need and deserve until effective safeguards can be developed and implemented. Such pathways include:
 - ACCESS/Nlets transactions,
 - DAPS/DIAS and any successor systems,
 - indirect access through partner agencies,
 - data-sharing agreements,
 - sales or disclosures to third-party data brokers,
 - and any downstream redisclosures of Washington information.
- Use your executive authority to direct agencies, especially DOL and WSP, to adopt uniform policies that maximize transparency, accountability, and public oversight of access to Washington residents' personal information. At a minimum, those policies should actually prevent that information from being shared for immigration enforcement purposes, preserve audit records pursuant to the PRA, require regular public reporting on information access, and ensure transparency sufficient to evaluate compliance with Washington law while protecting individual privacy. You have the authority to ensure violations are detected, deterred, and addressed by establishing meaningful consequences for misuse, including suspension or termination of agency-level access, enforcing contractual remedies, and referral for investigation where appropriate.

While executive action is needed immediately, administrative measures alone will not provide lasting protection. We encourage your administration to work with the Legislature to establish durable safeguards governing access to driver, vehicle, and related personal information maintained by Washington agencies.

Washington residents entrust state agencies with highly sensitive personal information. They have a right to expect that this information will be used only for lawful and authorized purposes. Continued disclosures that facilitate civil immigration enforcement undermine public trust,

conflict with Washington's law and policy, and create real harms for families and communities across the state. We look forward to your response, which can be sent Attn: Mark Bowers, Attorney at Law, Columbia Legal Services, 711 Capitol Way S., Suite 706, Olympia, WA 98501 or via email to mark.bowers@columbialegal.org.

Sincerely,

Guillermo Rivera - Community Organizer - Eastside For All

& 111 Organizations Across WA State Co-signers:

350 Eastside	Indivisible Covington	Quaker Voice on Washington Public Policy
4 Tomorrow	Indivisible Eastside	Refugee & Immigrant Services NW
ACLU of Washington	Indivisible Gig Harbor	Riverton Park United Methodist Church
African American Leadership Forum	Indivisible Kent	ROOTED in Lewis County
African Leaders Health Board	Indivisible Maple Valley	Sea Mar Community Health Centers
Africans on the Eastside	Indivisible Mercer Island	Seattle Human Rights Commission
Asian Pacific Islanders Coalition of South Puget Sound	Indivisible Puyallup	Seattle Indivisible
Asia Pacific Cultural Center	Indivisible Skagit	Seeds of Power
Asian Counseling and Referral Service	Indivisible Washington's 8th District	Skagit County Democratic Socialists of America
Asian Pacific Islander Coalition of Yakima	Jewish Coalition for Immigrant Justice NW	Sky Valley Indivisible
Ayan Maternity Health Care Support	Keep Dreams Alive Foundation	Snoqualmie Valley Indivisible
Banner Brigade	Khmer Anti-Deportation and Advocacy Group	South Everett Foursquare Church

BigHug	Kirkland Nourishing Network	Southeast Seattle Indivisible
Black Healing Fund	Kitsap Immigrant Assistance Center	Southend Indivisible
Bonito Cafe y Mercadito	Kol Ami: A Center for Jewish Life	Strippers Are Workers
Bothell Hindu Temple	Korean Community Service Center	Tanggol Migrante Movement - WA
Burien Indivisible	Lahai Health	The Circle Issaquah
Council on American Islamic Relations - Washington	Lake Washington UMC Safe Parking	The Foundation for Academic Endeavors
Camano Senior Services Association	Latino Community Fund of Washington	The House of Wisdom
CarePoint Clinic	Latino Educational Training Institute	Thurston County Defending Democracy
Church Council of Greater Seattle	Latino Northwest Communications	Thurston Immigrant Solidarity League
Community Foundation of Snohomish County	Labor Council for Latin American Advancement PNW	Troublemakers
Community Health Worker Coalition for Migrants and Refugees	League of Women Voters of Seattle/King County	UTSAV
Community to Community Development	Liveable Kirkland	UTSAV Voice
Connect Casino Road	Local Initiatives Support Corporation - Puget Sound	WA Immigrant & Refugee Funders Collaborative
DeFlock Renton	Mason County Immigrant Support Network	Washington Federation of State Employees Local 443
Des Moines Indivisible	Manzanita House	Washington Hindu Education and Seva Foundation

Empower Youth Network	Mutual Aid Neighbors in Action	Washington Housing Alliance
Evergreen Resistance	North Counties' Family Services	Washington Immigrant Solidarity Network
Faith Action Network	North Urban Human Services Alliance	Washington Legal Workers
Familias Unidas por la Justicia	Northwest Immigrant Rights Project	Washington State Budget and Policy Center
Greater Seattle Business Association	Northwest Indivisible	Washington West African Center
Hispanic Disability Support SWWA (Pasitos Gigantes)	Nourishing Networks	We Are Better Together Foundation
Housing Consortium of Everett and Snohomish County	North Urban Human Services Alliance	Wenatchee for Immigrant Justice
Housing Hope	OneAmerica	West Seattle Resist
Indian American Community Services IACS WA	Parisol (Pacific Rim Solidarity Network)	Yakima Community Aid
Indivisible Bremerton	PFLAG Skagit	Yakima Immigrant Response Network