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California State Senate

SENATOR
MARÍA ELENA DURAZO
TWENTY-SIXTH SENATE DISTRICT

CHAIR:
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
MEMBER
BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 5 ON PUBLIC SAFETY, JUDICIARY, TRANSPORTATION & LABOR
BUDGET & FISCAL REVIEW
HEALTH
HOUSING
JUDICIARY
LABOR, PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT & RETIREMENT

November 7, 2026

Mr. Kerry Heinrich
President and Chief Executive Officer, Adventist Health
1 Adventist Health Way,
Roseville, CA 95661

Mr. Daniel Fontoura
President, Adventist Health White Memorial and Montebello
1720 E. Cesar E. Chavez Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90033

Re: Federal Immigration Enforcement Activity at Adventist Health White Memorial

Dear Mr. Heinrich and Mr. Fontoura:

Last night and through the early morning numerous federal immigration agents formed a blockade at White Memorial's ambulance entrance. This created an intimidating atmosphere for patients and families, especially those arriving by ambulance. Hospital leadership needed to act immediately to protect patients and the community and it appears that did not occur.

We strongly condemn ICE's decision to station agents at the doorstep of an emergency room, and we call on the federal government to immediately end all immigration enforcement activity at and near health care facilities.

Hospitals must be sanctuaries of healing, not places of fear. No family should ever hesitate to seek medical care due to their immigration status or fear that immigration agents will disrupt the care of a loved one.

In November 2025, White Memorial assured community leaders that patient privacy would be safeguarded, medical decisions would remain between doctors and patients, law enforcement would not interfere with care, and hospital leadership would support its medical staff. Nearly a year later, we demand to know what tangible actions have been taken to uphold these promises.

We urge White Memorial to:

1. Provide a detailed written account of the November 6–7 incident, explaining why agents were allowed to remain at the ambulance entrance, what measures hospital leadership took to address their presence, and whether emergency access or patient care was compromised.

2. Implement and enforce clear procedures to prevent immigration agents from obstructing emergency entrances, address their presence on hospital grounds, and restrict access to patient rooms and nonpublic areas in accordance with SB 81.

3. Clarify the hospital's coordination with ICE and ensure that immigration agents do not interfere with medical decisions, patient privacy, or communications between medical professionals, patients, and their families.

4. Protect and support doctors, nurses, and hospital staff with clear written protocols, training, and administrative support when they advocate for their patients.

5. Issue a public statement in both English and Spanish reaffirming the hospital's unwavering commitment to caring for all patients, regardless of immigration status.

We request a written response by November 21, 2026, and a meeting with community representatives within two weeks.

White Memorial is more than just a hospital to Boyle Heights; it is an integral part of our families' lives. Generations of children have been born there, families have relied on its doctors and nurses during their most challenging moments, and our community has entrusted it with our loved ones.

If these concerns remain unresolved, we will seek a review by the California Attorney General of White Memorial's compliance with state law.

Our families deserve to know that when they enter White Memorial's doors, their health, safety, and dignity will always be prioritized.

Sincerely,



María Elena Durazo
California State Senator, 26th District
Los Angeles County Supervisor-elect, First District



Mark González
California State Assemblymember, 54th District



Nithya Raman
Los Angeles City Councilmember, 4th District



Ysabel Jurado
Los Angeles City Councilmember, 14th District

Organizational Signatories:



Raquel Román
Executive Director, Proyecto Pastoral at Dolores Mission

Angelica Salas
Executive Director, Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)



Boyle Heights Immigrant Rights Network



Henry Perez
Executive Director, InnerCity Struggle



Lucy Herrera,
Executive Director, Legacy LA

cc: Governor Gavin Newsom; Attorney General Rob Bonta; Supervisor Hilda Solis