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Wyoming and Yates.



District Council #4

International Union of
PAINTERS AND ALLIED TRADES OF AMERICA AND CANADA, AFL-CIO-CLC

Members of the legislature,

CCLES APR 23 '26 AM 10:59

I am from Ecuador, and I have been working in the United States for more than ten years. Construction work has been my livelihood for most of that time.

For many years, I worked without the kind of support and protections that workers should have. I did not have reliable benefits. I did not have health insurance. If something went wrong, I was on my own.

That changed when I joined District Council 4.

Since becoming a union member, I now have access to benefits and health insurance. That has made a real difference in my life. It means I can take care of myself. It means I have some security that I did not have before. It also means I can take better care of my daughter.

But even with that stability, I am living with a constant fear.

When I think about ICE, I feel scared. I have not felt calm since all of this started. It is always on my mind. No matter where I am, I am thinking about what could happen.

The thing I worry about the most is being separated from my daughter.

Everything I do is for her. I work hard so I can provide for her and give her a better life. The idea that I could be taken away from her is something that stays with me every day. It is not something I can turn off.

This fear changes how I live. It affects where I go, how I move, and how I feel even during normal parts of the day. It is always there in the background.

I have worked in this country for a long time. I have contributed through my labor. I have built things that people use every day. I am part of this community. But I still feel like my life can be turned upside down at any moment.

No parent should have to live with the fear of being separated from their child.

I am asking you to understand what that feels like and to take it seriously.

Thank you.

PAINTERS - DECORATORS - PAPERHANGERS - DRYWALL FINISHERS - STRUCTURAL STEEL - CIVIL SERVICE - GLAZIERS & GLASS WORKERS - SIGN PAINTERS - PAINT MAKERS & ALLIED INDUSTRIAL WORKERS