

## PROPOSED RESOLUTION

### Cortland County Legislature

February 17, 2026

**WHEREAS**, the safety, privacy, and well-being of all Cortland County residents are paramount responsibilities of county government; AND

**WHEREAS**, many of the agricultural and dairy farm workers, construction workers, healthcare workers, and service industry employees and their families who sustain Cortland County's economy are immigrants - some of whom lack secure documentation – and rely on the stability and compassion of the community; AND

**WHEREAS**, unfair and indiscriminate U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) operations in Cortland County would prove disastrous to our dairy and other immigrant-reliant industries and cause undue harm and fear in our community; AND

**WHEREAS**, according to ICE detention data, 70 percent of the growth in detentions since September 21, 2025 are for people with no criminal history, 20 percent have pending criminal charges, and just 10 percent of the growth in ICE detentions this fiscal year can be attributed to immigrants with criminal convictions, with a small percentage of those convictions representing serious violent crimes or public safety threats; AND

**WHEREAS**, participation in a 287(g) agreement with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) would obligate the County to assist federal immigration-enforcement activities, thereby creating uncertainty among community members; AND

**WHEREAS** the presence of ICE operations in county-owned facilities creates a climate of fear that undermines the safety of our community members, erodes trust in local law enforcement, and threatens the physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being of immigrant families, seniors, students, and workers of all backgrounds; AND

**WHEREAS**, diverting county personnel, security, utilities, and space to ICE duties consumes resources that could otherwise be directed toward public safety, education, health services, and other local priorities; AND

**WHEREAS**, the County's resources at the jail are already overcapacity, requiring the housing out of individuals away from their community and increasing the costs to County taxpayers, AND

**WHEREAS**, counties that have entered into 287(g) agreements in other jurisdictions have faced civil-rights litigation and costly settlements, ultimately burdening local taxpayers; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

**RESOLVED** the Cortland County Legislature, in order to protect public safety, protect our dairy and other industries that rely on an immigrant workforce for their financial viability, and, continue to provide a welcoming community to all residents, urges all county agencies to decline any 287 (g) agreements or any comparable arrangement with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) or any other federal immigration enforcement agency; AND BE IT FURTHER

**RESOLVED** it is the position of the Cortland County Legislature that at this time it is not in the best interest of Cortland County and its residents to make available the use of county-owned property, facilities, data, or resources for the identifying and locating residents, detention, interrogation, processing, or any other operational activity of ICE or related federal immigration-enforcement entities; AND BE IT FURTHER

**RESOLVED** that the Clerk of the Cortland County Legislature shall post a notice of this resolution on the official County website and at each County building within ten (10) business days of adoption, informing the public of the County's position regarding 287(g) agreements and the use of County facilities for ICE activities; AND BE IT FURTHER

**RESOLVED** that copies of this Resolution shall be shared with our State and Federal Representatives.

#### Appendix A – Source Citations

<https://austinkocher.substack.com/p/show-your-work-the-math-behind-my>

<https://www.nyclu.org/commentary/the-feds-unleashed-a-military-style-raid-on-an-upstate-factory-heres-how-we-know-it-was-illegal>

<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/keeping-new-yorkers-safe-governor-hochul-highlights-growing-support-local-cops-local-crimes>

<https://www.wgrz.com/article/news/crime/niagara-county-sheriff-alters-ice-detention-policy/71-7ffcdb3-3949-4040-be20-9df113a84ef0>

<https://www.cayugacounty.gov/DocumentCenter/View/32180/429-25---LEG-Immigration-Enforcement-Activities>

<https://www.binghamton-ny.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/16826/639025938467400000>

<https://www.latimes.com/environment/story/2025-07-12/ice-raids-deported-los-angeles-cats-and-dogs-left-behind>