

..Number
260006
..Version
PROPOSED SUBSTITUTE
..Reference

..Sponsor
ALD. BROWER, ZAMARRIPA, DIMITRIJEVIC AND PEREZ

..Title
Substitute resolution relating to the arrest and detention of Elvira Benitez.

..Analysis
This resolution condemns ICE's detention of Elvira Benitez and declares that her detention and similar detentions are a profound and absurd waste of taxpayer dollars.

..Body
Whereas, Elvira Benitez fled from violence in Mexico at the age of 15, bringing along her nine year old sister to seek safety in the United States; and

Whereas, Ms. Benitez has lived peacefully in the United States for 36 years, has no criminal record, has raised four children, has paid taxes, has started a business, and has been active in her church and community; and

Whereas, After being previously detained, an immigration judge reviewed Ms. Benitez's case, found that her removal would cause exceptional and extremely unusual hardship to her two U.S.-citizen children, freed her from detention, and granted her a green card, allowing her to live and work permanently in the United States; and

Whereas, The federal government decided to appeal the decision of the immigration judge, and when attending a routine check-in at a downtown Milwaukee ICE office on March 10, 2026, Ms. Benitez was again detained by the federal government; and

Whereas, The law does not require that Ms. Benitez be detained while the federal government's appeal is pending; and

Whereas, After being unnecessarily detained for over two months and subjected to arm and ankle shackles, a judge ruled that Ms. Benitez would be allowed to post bond; and

Whereas, After posting bond, Ms. Benitez was released from a facility 600 miles from her family with a dead cell phone and without having been given back her identification; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, By the Common Council of the City of Milwaukee, that we condemn the federal government's detention of Elvira Benitez; and, be it

Further Resolved, That we declare the cruel and unnecessary detention of mothers, laborers, caregivers, and longtime community members who pose no danger to society to be a profound and absurd waste of taxpayer dollars.

..Requestor

..Drafter
LRB181589-3
Dave Gelting
May 29, 2026