

Hello everybody, my name is Adan Tlatenco and I am a community leader from Juntos. I am here today to talk about my brother's case and about how an actual ICE Hold affects an immigrant. It all began with a DUI in 2012 during which my brother was detained for 5 days. I then personally tried to pay for his bail but I was told by the cashier that she would not accept the payment. She told me that they were unable to accept the bail money because my brother already had a detainer placed on him, aka an ICE Hold and that even if I paid in full it wouldn't change anything. Now I know that ICE Holds are supposed to only be placed on an individual for an extra 48 hours, but in my brother's case he was detained for five days waiting for Immigration agents to come pick him up. I believe that this was a violation of his human rights. This is how his immigration case began and we are still fighting his case to this day.

During this time my brother has already served his sentence with the state for his DUI. He paid the amount that was specified by the judge and on top of that he was detained another 72 hours in jail. Even after serving his time he now has to unjustly deal with ICE. This experience with ICE has greatly affected my family in Mexico, especially our parents, my brother's kids and my brother Mauro himself. It is very sad to live through such a traumatic experience because the dreams of Mauro and his family might not become a reality because he could be deported. The reason that my brother came to the U.S is to be able to provide a better future for each of his children, get a better education and that each of them is able to get their dream careers. Fortunately his oldest son is about to fulfill his dream of becoming an architect. His other son however is currently studying and he needs his father for financial support. The cost of going to school is very high and that is why Mauro needs to stay in the country, to help his child. During this ordeal my brother has suffered a lot emotionally, but not just him, our parents, his children and myself as his brother have all felt the toll of this.

I am aware that my brother did commit a crime, a crime in which he has already paid his debt to society just like any other citizen of the United States. It is unjust that he now has to deal with a double punishment. Why do us immigrant have to pay for our crimes twice? We all come here to this country for opportunities, equality, to realize our dreams, but we are not treated as equals in the eyes of the law. There are two different systems in place, the justice system, which in this case is that of the state of Pennsylvania, and an immigration system which is a federal system. The city of Philadelphia should not allow Immigration to have access to and interfere with the justice system. We are all human beings, and as humans we make mistakes but we also have rights. These rights include the ability to have second chances. ICE Holds and the deportations that happen as a result of ICE Holds, deny people these rights and the opportunity to reestablish their lives.

This is why the city of Philadelphia needs to stop ALL ICE Holds. Not just some, but ALL, because we are all one united community and should be treated equally.