



National Association of Hispanic Nurses (NAHN) Statement on the Supreme Court Ruling DHS v. Pedro Vasquez Perdomo — September 8, 2025

The **National Association of Hispanic Nurses (NAHN)** remains steadfast in its mission to advance health equity in Hispanic communities and to lead, promote, and advocate for educational, professional, and leadership opportunities for Hispanic nurses. A key pillar of our work is advocating for policy change at the local, state, and federal levels to address the healthcare needs of Hispanic populations and to influence equitable resource allocation. NAHN is committed to ensuring that justice and health equity are not just ideals, but guiding principles embedded in national health policy.

As the leading voice for Hispanic nurses across the United States, NAHN is deeply concerned by the Supreme Court's ruling on September 8, 2025, ruling in Kristi Noem, Secretary, Department of Homeland Security v. Pedro Vasquez Perdomo. The statements made in Justice Kavanaugh's opinion—and the broader implications of the Court's decision—raise profound ethical, legal, and humanitarian concerns that cannot go unchallenged.

In his opinion, Justice Kavanaugh cited government estimates that “about ten percent of the people in the Los Angeles region are illegally in the United States – meaning about 2 million undocumented immigrants out of a total population of 20 million.” The government further identified specific occupations and locations—such as construction sites, landscaping, agriculture, and car washes—as targets for immigration enforcement, particularly those “where people are hired for day jobs... and who do not speak much, if any, English.”

The decision further lists the following criteria as justifications for law enforcement stops:

1. **Presence at specific locations** (e.g., bus stops, day labor pickup sites, car washes, agricultural areas);
2. **Type of work performed.**
3. **Speaking Spanish or speaking English with an accent, and**
4. **Apparent race or ethnicity.**

Let us be clear: this approach constitutes racial and ethnic profiling. Targeting individuals based on where they work, the language they speak, or their racial or ethnic appearance directly contradicts the principles of equality, fairness, and justice on which our legal system is built.

As nurses and healthcare professionals committed to health equity and the well-being of all people—particularly our immigrant and Hispanic communities—NAHN unequivocally condemns any policy or legal precedent that promotes discrimination under the guise of immigration enforcement. When individuals fear being profiled, they delay or avoid seeking medical care, undermining community health and eroding trust in the healthcare systems.

We call on lawmakers, healthcare institutions, civil rights organizations, and community leaders to:

- **Denounce the racial profiling** endorsed or implied by this ruling.

- **Advocate for immigration reform** that respects human dignity and civil rights.
- **Protect the safety and rights** of all individuals, regardless of immigration status.

NAHN stands in unwavering solidarity with the communities harmed by this decision. We will continue to champion justice, health equity, and inclusive policies that reflect the core values of our profession and our nation.

About the National Association of Hispanic Nurses

Since 1975, NAHN has been the nation's leading professional society for Latino nurses. With a growing membership of more than 40 local chapters, NAHN represents the voices of over 220,000 Latino nurses throughout the United States. NAHN is devoted to promoting safe, quality health care delivery to Latino communities and recognizing excellence among Latino nurses. To learn more, visit www.nahnnet.org.

Contact

Kate Filipiak | 859.459.5800 | kfilipiak@thehispanicnurses.org

References:

- Capps, R. (2020). Immigration enforcement and the mental health of Latino High School Students. Migrant Policy Institute.
https://www.migrationpolicy.org/sites/default/files/publications/immigration-enforcement-mental-health-latino-students_final.pdf
- Garner, B.A. (2024). Racial Profiling. *Black's Law Dictionary, 12th Edition*. Thomson Reuters. P. 1465.
- Rhodes, S.D., et.al. (2015). The impact of local immigration enforcement policies on the health of immigrant Hispanics/Latinos in the United States. *Am J Public Health*, 105 (2), 329-337.
<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC4318326/pdf/AJPH.2014.302218.pdf>
- Supreme Court of the United States (Sep 8, 2025). No. 25A169 Kristi Noem, Secretary of Homeland Security, et al. v Pedro Vasquez Perdomo, et al.
https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/24pdf/25a169_5h25.pdf
- Young, M.E.D.T., et.al. (2023). Beyond "Chilling Effects": Latinx and Asian immigrants' experiences with enforcement and barriers to Health Care. *Med Care*, 61(5), 306-313.
<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC10079615/>