

**Testimony in Support of the Multnomah County, Oregon Resolution Calling Upon
US Immigration and Customs Enforcement to Exercise Prosecutorial Discretion
Regarding Implementation of the “Secure Communities Program”**

Herman M. Frankel, M.D.*

Chair Cogen, Commissioner Kafoury, Commissioner Smith, Commissioner Shiprack,
and Commissioner McKeel:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of your efforts to protect members of our community from improper, inappropriate, and unlawful detention and deportation.

Thank you for reminding us that enforcement of federal civil immigration law is the responsibility of the federal government and not of State, County, and/or City governments, and that routine adherence to protocols developed to facilitate detention and deportation of our neighbors – without thoughtful case-by case attention to context and details – constitutes assaults on the lives of people and their children, on community safety, on civil rights, on access to due process, and on our democracy itself.

As a pediatrician who has lived and worked in Multnomah County since 1965, I care especially about the well-being of our children. You who have worked so devotedly, year after year, to protect families in distress know full well that immigrant and refugee victims and survivors of domestic violence who are terrified of the prospect of deportation of the abuser on whom they are economically dependent, or of themselves, are likely to be reluctant to seek help no matter how desperately needed. Further, there is abundant evidence that parental separation due to incarceration is itself an adverse childhood experience that, especially when combined with such other family problems as abuse or neglect, creates or increases the risk of severe developmental problems in the childhood years; psychological, social, and behavioral problems in the teenage years; and serious chronic medical problems in the adult years. (Please see documentation below.)

Let’s keep working together to protect our children from harm, and to make life better for everyone who lives, works, studies, worships, or travels in Multnomah County.

Documentation:

Robert Anda. The Health and Social Impact of Growing Up with Adverse Childhood Experiences: The Human and Economic Costs of the Status Quo. (2007) [This comprehensive 40-page review is accessible at this website:
<http://www.childwelfare.gov/can/impact/consequences.cfm> .]

Additional reports about the effects of domestic violence and other adverse childhood experiences are accessible at <http://www.cdc.gov/ace/outcomes.htm#Partner>.

A comprehensive listing of 70 studies of biomedical, emotional, and economic consequences in medical care of abusive childhood experiences, is accessible at this website:
www.theannainstitute.org/ACE%20Study/ACE-PUB.pdf

*Herman M. Frankel, M.D. (503-227-1860) prepared this testimony on 02/27/12 for presentation on 03/01/12 to members of the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners. <ice04.docx> Page 1 of 1