What: Pack the Hearing to Support the DC Sanctuary Values Emergency Amendment Act
When: Next Tuesday, October 8th, around 12 PM ET
Where: DC Council, Wilson Building, 1350 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Contact: Julie Mao, admin@justfutureslaw.org

October 3rd- Today, the DC Council noticed emergency legislation to end all collaboration between DC and ICE. Next Tuesday, Councilmembers Charles Allen, Brianne Nadeau, and David Grosso will introduce and call for a vote on the bill. At this moment in history, when Trump continues to attack, dehumanize, and scapegoat immigrants and communities of color for political gain--we call upon all to act with moral clarity and support an end to DC’s complicity in ICE detentions and deportations of its residents.

We need your solidarity in the coming days and months to make this bill a reality. Please contact DC Councilmembers to vote for the bill and canvass with us this weekend to gather community support.

If passed, DC Council’s bill would stop DC from submitting to ICE detainer requests, sharing an individual’s address or release time information with ICE, and providing ICE access to DC facilities including the DC Jail, the DC Juvenile Detention Facility, and St. Elizabeth’s Hospital absent a judicial warrant.

The introduction of this bill comes after months of legal and organizing work by Just Futures Law and a coalition of grassroots immigration and systems-impacted community groups fighting for a future without cages or deportations. This campaign is part of JFL staff’s long-term work on police and prison accountability including supporting the passage of the original detainer bill in 2012. Our subsequent monitoring and advocacy exposed loopholes in the law that allowed DC agencies to frustrate its implementation, resulting in the DC jail likely transferring hundreds of DC residents to ICE in the past few years for deportation.
We commend the DC Council for taking action today to clarify and strengthen this bill. DC’s collaboration with ICE instills fear in our communities. It separates families and places our immigrant neighbors in harm’s way. It deprives immigrant DC residents of their right to due process and fair representation. And it creates a separate, crueler criminal justice system for immigrants who otherwise would be released. DC residents are already subject to one of the highest incarceration rates in the country, driven by biased policing such as stop and frisk and mandatory minimum sentencing. People who’ve endured our flawed criminal justice system - and people who've completed their sentences or been ordered released - should be able to rejoin our community and not be further detained or deported.

Please contact DC Councilmembers to vote for the bill and canvass with us this weekend to gather community support. Finally, please show up next Tuesday to support the passage of this bill!

*Just Futures Law would like to thank members of the coalition including but not limited to Sanctuary DMV, Many Languages One Voice, United We Dream DMV Chapter, Calvary Episcopal, Congregations Action Network, and the Kalmanovitz Initiative for Labor and the Working Poor for their courageous organizing efforts.*