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This letter is written with a heavy heart. Today, our nursing community is grieving. We have lost a fellow registered nurse in an act of violence connected to immigration enforcement. This event, and similar recent ones, are incredibly disturbing and are likely to lead to more harm and deaths.

American Nurses Association - Ohio cannot be silent in the moment we are witnessing. The shooting death of nurse Alex Pretti is personal. Regardless of where each of us stands on the issues associated with immigration enforcement in cities, the loss of a nurse, a colleague, a human being, cuts us deeply. As nurses, we are troubled by violence and shootings, and they must stop.

We also firmly uphold the fundamental rights enshrined in the U.S. Constitution. We unequivocally support the First Amendment rights of every individual to speak out, to peacefully assemble, and to advocate for change without fear of violence or death.

As the professional nurses association in Ohio, an American Nurses Association affiliate, we are speaking for all nurses, asking for immediate action to stop further violence and deaths. As a legislator representing Ohio citizens, we request that you join your colleagues in voting to protect the rights of individuals to express their views peacefully, safeguard the civil liberties of all Americans, and restrict and re-evaluate the unjustified intrusions of ICE agents in American lives. The violence and shootings must stop. Today it is Minnesota, and Ohio will be next.

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