

**A MATTER OF
JUSTICE**

**THE CASE FOR
UNIVERSAL REPRESENTATION**





In 2019, Colorado received approximately 8,500 immigration deportation court matters. Nearly 60 percent of the immigrants in these cases went to court without legal representation. Despite many having good claims for remaining in the U.S., they lack the legal expertise to fight their own cases. The effects of detention and deportation as a result of a lack of legal representation during these court proceedings are severe on individuals and their families, and come at a high cost to all of Colorado.

Immigrants are an integral part of the fabric of Colorado's communities and our economy. In addition to the economic arguments we present, by ensuring all immigrants who face loss of liberty can have an attorney represent them in court, it will support a deeply held value in the U.S. legal system. Due process—equal treatment under the law—should be afforded to any U.S. resident who faces the possibility of detention or deportation.

DUE PROCESS

EFFECTS ON FAMILY

- Families and individuals who are detained during immigration proceedings lose nearly 30% of their annual income. For families earning low incomes, legal representation could be the difference between just getting by and falling into poverty.
- When people have an attorney, they may be able to await the outcome of their case from their home, where they can see their children, continue providing and working so they can cover legal fees.
- Without legal representation, immigrants may be detained for long periods of time. This can have harmful effects on immigrant families and communities.



REPRESENTED IMMIGRANTS ARE UP TO 10 TIMES MORE LIKELY TO ESTABLISH A RIGHT TO REMAIN IN THE UNITED STATES

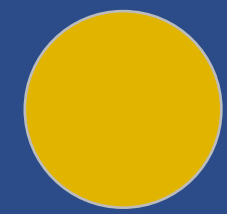
EFFECTS ON EMPLOYERS

- Employers incur large costs under the current immigration legal system. Lack of legal representation increases costly turnover, forcing employers to replace workers with little to no notice.
- Employers of workers earning an annual salary less than \$30,000 expend roughly \$12 million trying to replace workers lost due to deportation.
- Universal legal representation would allow more immigrants to remain in Colorado and on the job, thereby reducing costly disruption and expenses for employers.

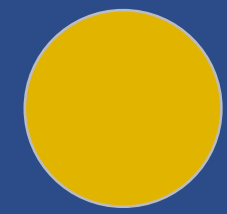


**WE ESTIMATE 2,530 WORKERS
WOULDN'T BE DEPORTED WITH
UNIVERSAL REPRESENTATION**

COST TO COLORADANS



Colorado immigrants who are detained lose approximately \$3.9 million in earnings due to their inability to work while detained. This leads to a loss of \$350,000 in state and local taxes.



CFI estimates every \$1 spent by immigrant families generates \$1.60 in economic activity. When immigrant families lose \$3.9 million in wages due to detainment as a result of not having adequate legal representation, our local economies lose \$6.2 million.



**IN 2018, COLORADO IMMIGRANTS
PAID NEARLY \$5 BILLION IN
LOCAL, STATE, AND FEDERAL TAXES**

JUSTICE AND DIGNITY

We estimate that the cost of providing Universal Representation to all Coloradans navigating the complex immigration system would be \$15.2 million. When compared to the \$18.6 million that would be saved in family income, employer turnover costs, state and local taxes, and overall economic activity, the investment in a statewide legal defense fund comes to a net benefit.

Coloradans face higher rates of deportation and detention simply because they are unable to secure legal counsel due to our unfair and unjust immigration system. Lack of fair representation in immigrant cases ripples through Colorado's economy and the lives of people across the state. Ensuring everyone who faces detention or deportation has an attorney present in court will protect the dignity and livelihoods of all Coloradans.

