In his campaign for the presidency, Donald Trump threatened to deport undocumented immigrants, to register Muslims, and to undo our nation’s laws that protect access to healthcare, public education, and civil and labor rights for many Americans. He has nominated to Cabinet positions people who would privatize Medicare, repeal the Affordable Care Act without any clear replacement plan, and revoke our labor rights.

As nurses and health professionals, we care for people in need regardless of their race, religion, income, age or gender. We cannot allow our hospitals to become places that people fear to enter because they might be deported, because of their identity, or because they no longer can afford to pay for their care. Hospitals are pillars in our communities—as are our schools—and they need to be safe places for all.

On Thursday, Jan. 19, the American Federation of Teachers will be part of a nationwide group of mayors, student organizations, educators, immigrant rights advocates and community leaders in a **Call for Sanctuary, so that our country’s most vulnerable people know that we will support their right to community, to healthcare, to education—to sanctuary in a Trump administration.** Together, we’ll amplify the call by asking our hospitals to join the wave of institutions promising to protect the rights of all members of our communities.

With this action, we are reaffirming that this is a serious moment and that we will make concrete our commitment to resisting Trump’s politics of hate. Nurses and health professionals must be able to practice without fear of being targeted for their beliefs, or for their race, religion, gender identity. Teachers throughout the country already are being targeted for their beliefs. Are we next?

Our union [name of local] is joining this day of action, and sending the accompanying letter to [name of hospital], asking it to become a sanctuary hospital. Will you join me in signing this letter?

Dear:

Our nation’s hospitals are foundations in our communities, and their history is one of providing care for the sick, regardless of income, age, race, gender or religion or political belief. Hospitals are centers for medical research and innovation, teaching, and health education for our communities. I know you share with me the belief that access to high-quality, affordable healthcare is, and should remain, a pillar of our democracy.

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We cannot allow our hospitals to become places that people fear to enter because they might be deported, because of their political beliefs, religion, race, income, age, sexual preference or gender.” Hospitals are pillars in our communities—as are our schools—and they need to be safe places for all.

On Thursday, Jan. 19, [name of local union] and the American Federation of Teachers will be part of a nationwide group of mayors, student organizations, educators, immigrant rights advocates and community leaders in a **Call for Sanctuary, so that our country’s most vulnerable people know that we will support their right to community, to healthcare, to education—to sanctuary in a Trump administration.**

I’m asking that you join that call, and pledge to:

* Provide essential healthcare to all who enter our hospital doors, regardless of their income, race, gender or religious or political beliefs;
* Refuse to investigate or detain patients or staff based on their immigration status; and
* Defend the civil rights of health professionals and resist any attempt to blacklist staff for their political beliefs, religion, race, income, age, sexual preference or gender**.”**