

1 By Supervisors Gómez-Tom, Bielinski, Martinez
2 O'Connor, Rolland, Eckblad, Martin, Shea,
3 Roundtree, Jr., Nicholson-Bovell, Vincent, and
4 Johnson, Jr.
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File No. 26-515

7 **A RESOLUTION**
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9 Condemning the detention of Elvira Benitez Suarez and supporting her ability to remain
10 with her family in the United States
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13 WHEREAS, Elvira Benitez Suarez fled violence in Mexico at the age of 15,
14 bringing her nine-year-old sister with her to seek safety in the United States; and
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16 WHEREAS, Ms. Benitez Suarez has lived peacefully in the United States for 36
17 years, has no criminal record, has raised four children, paid taxes, started a business,
18 and remained active in her church and her community; and
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20 WHEREAS, after Ms. Benitez Suarez was previously detained during a family
21 trip, an immigration judge reviewed her case and determined that her removal would
22 cause exceptional and extremely unusual hardship for her two youngest children, both
23 of whom are U.S. citizens; and
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25 WHEREAS, the judge released her from detention and granted her a green card,
26 allowing her to live and work permanently in the United States; and
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28 WHEREAS, the federal government subsequently appealed the immigration
29 judge's decision, and when Ms. Benitez Suarez appeared at the Immigration and
30 Customs Enforcement (ICE) office for a routine administrative check-in on March 10,
31 2026, she was abruptly detained again; and
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33 WHEREAS, the law does not require Ms. Benitez Suarez to be detained while
34 the federal government's appeal is pending; and
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36 WHEREAS, Ms. Benitez Suarez, who poses no threat to the community, was
37 transported out of state to a detention facility in Kentucky, hundreds of miles from her
38 community and family, causing adversity for her loved ones; and
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40 WHEREAS, on May 26, 2026, Ms. Benitez Suarez was released on bond and
41 allowed to return home to her family in Sheboygan Falls while awaiting the outcome of
42 the federal government's appeal; and
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44 WHEREAS, Ms. Benitez Suarez has shared harrowing and traumatic details of
45 her detention and the adverse conditions she experienced while in federal custody; and
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47 WHEREAS, the Committee on Intergovernmental Relations, at its meeting of
48 June 12, 2026, recommended adoption of File No. 26-515 (vote 5-0); now, therefore,
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50 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors welcomes
51 Elvira Benitez Suarez home; and
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53 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
54 strongly condemns Ms. Benitez Suarez's unjust detention and supports her ability to
55 remain permanently with her family in the United States, consistent with the immigration
56 judge's decision; and
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58 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
59 finds that the unwarranted detention of Ms. Benitez Suarez and other longtime residents
60 who pose no threat to community safety represents a profound misuse of taxpayer
61 dollars and reflects a deeply flawed federal detention policy.
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64 06/12/26

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