



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 30, 2025

CONTACT: Gabriela Ibañez Guzmán, gguzman.uwc@gmail.com, (575) 496-9654

Somos Un Pueblo Unido's Report Exposes How ICE Exploits Data Brokers to Undermine New Mexico's Immigration Protections

SANTA FE, NM— A [report](#) released today by Somos Un Pueblo Unido, Just Futures Law, Empower, and Mijente reveals how federal immigration agencies are bypassing New Mexico's immigrant public safety policies by purchasing sensitive personal information from data brokers or obtaining it through state law enforcement networks.

The report also examines how federal immigration agencies, such as ICE, obtain highly sensitive personal information from New Mexican departments, including state motor vehicle records, and use this information to fuel deportation efforts. Additional [documents](#) in the report reveal data-sharing networks, including government contracts with data brokers and records of local jurisdictions sharing residents' personal information with these brokers.

New Mexico's long tradition of passing local and state policies aimed at integrating mixed-status immigrant families into public safety efforts, such as providing driver's licenses regardless of immigration status, and prohibiting the use of local resources to aid in deportation schemes, is undermined through ICE's multi-million dollar contracts with data brokers, such as LexisNexis, which sells New Mexicans' information from residents' most recent addresses to all the cars registered in their names to their birthdates.

Easy access to our personal information enables ICE to stay informed on personal information, making it easier to target immigrants, who have committed no criminal offense, but nevertheless get caught in the immigration enforcement web.

The report proposes several policy recommendations to safeguard the privacy of all New Mexicans, including requiring all companies who purchase information from the MVD database to certify the information will not be used to enforce federal immigration laws.

"The use of third-party data brokers to bypass state and local protections is an erosion of public trust in our legal and governmental systems tasked with safeguarding rights and upholding laws designed to protect individuals," said **Marcela Díaz, Executive**

Director of Somos Un Pueblo Unido. "When sensitive personal information of immigrants who have done the right thing and applied for a driver's license is sold to data brokers who have multi-million dollar contracts with ICE, it sends a clear message to immigrant communities: their safety and rights are secondary to the interests of profit-driven corporations and federal enforcement agendas.

This undermines confidence in public institutions, discourages vulnerable populations from accessing essential emergency and public safety services, and creates fear and distrust. New Mexico legislators must take action to prohibit third parties from sharing or selling our personal data for immigration enforcement and any other purposes. Our community needs assurance that no one's sensitive information will be used to tear families apart or cause harm to vulnerable members. We must act swiftly to protect New Mexicans' privacy and ensure that our data cannot be weaponized against us for deportations."

"This report shows how government agencies share personal data with private companies and inadvertently help power ICE's surveillance and deportation machine," said **Laura Rivera, senior staff attorney with Just Futures Law.** "Given our political climate, it's crucial our local governments take appropriate action to close these loopholes in efforts to safeguard communities' private information, especially that of vulnerable populations in New Mexico."

###

About Somos Un Pueblo Unido

Somos Un Pueblo Unido is a statewide immigrant-based civil and workers' rights organization with membership teams in eight counties and worker centers in Santa Fe, Hobbs, Roswell, and Farmington.