

## Dear

As a member of a local United Church of Christ congregation in the state of New York, I am writing to express my deep concern over the divisions and lack of unity and civility that I see growing in our country. These divisions build walls of bias between people of different races, genders, ethnicities, sexual identities, citizenships, and economic statuses. As part of the United Church of Christ, a denomination committed to building a just world for all, we believe that love knows no borders. In the bible, Jesus tells us to "love our neighbor." Our faith calls us to care for all of God's children, regardless of where they come from, and to seek policies that reflect compassion and justice.

Borders are not just about lines on a map; they are barriers that can divide hearts, limit compassion, and restrict the fullness of God's vision for humanity. The aim of the United Church of Christ in New York is to collectively tear down walls of fear, injustice, and exclusion, though our commitment to justice and inclusivity. This faithful courage leads us as members to stand with the marginalized as beloved children of God. By embracing diverse communities, the church lives out its mission of building God's realm of dignity, compassion, and hospitality, putting love at the center of all we do.

I respectfully urge you to support legislation that seek to build bridges, makes space for dialogue, and allows people to know that they are loved as humans and deserve compassion and justice.

Please know that my prayers are with you as you serve, and that our congregation, alongside the wider United Church of Christ, stands ready to work with you in building a more just and loving society.

Sincerely,



