



New York Midwives strongly opposes Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) agents being present in hospitals, especially on labor and birth units, as occurred at Rochester General Hospital on February 26, 2025. **An undocumented pregnant woman was detained, guarded by CBP like a criminal and denied legal counsel while seeking medical attention.**

Every person on earth came into being through their mother. Birth is a sacred event where midwives protect mothers as they bring their babies into the world. All humans should be afforded dignity and care during the birth process. We are all “undocumented” at birth; making the journey into human form does not require any “documents.” **No human families should be disrupted while seeking compassionate medical care in any circumstance.**

The presence of CBP agents in hospitals disrupts patient care by compromising the safety and sanctity of the space, creating an atmosphere of fear and distress for both staff and patients. At a time when clinicians must remain focused and clear-headed, the presence of CBP adds an element of policing to an environment that should prioritize privacy, dignity, and respect. Beyond potentially violating human rights, CBP agents undoubtedly obstruct the compassionate care that midwives, doctors, and nurses provide to all patients, regardless of political affiliation, skin color, or country of origin.

We STRONGLY condemn this incident and the violation of basic human rights everywhere.