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As we honor [#NativeAmericanHeritage](#), I want to begin by naming the truth that we are gathered on land shaped by [#IndigenousPeoples](#) ([#Creek](#) & [#Cherokee](#)) and by a history marked with displacement, broken treaties, and profound pain.

This month for some people is a reminder that families have been torn apart on this soil before, and that we carry a responsibility today, to do better, to protect one another, and to honor the [#dignity](#) of every community.

Right now many of our immigrant families are living with fear around possible ICE activity. And that fear does not stay outside their homes. It walks into our classrooms. Teachers in our Advisory Council (TAC) are seeing students absent, withdrawn, distracted, or asking quietly if their parents will be home when they get off the bus. When families do not feel safe, belonging breaks. When belonging breaks, learning breaks.

Anne Frank once wrote, "Families are torn apart. Men, women, and children are being carried away in droves. We feel the tension and the fear every day, and we do not know what tomorrow will bring." Her words remind us that state power used against families creates a fear that reaches far beyond the moment. That kind of fear lives in children's hearts.

At the same time, [#antiBlackness](#) continues to harm Black families across this nation. Black women face risks in unemployment, healthcare, and safety. As Fannie Lou Hamer told us, "Nobody's free until everybody's free." She spoke the truth about how this nation treats Black women, and the truth about how that harm ripples across whole communities.

Working families, poor people, and rural communities are also breaking under the cost of health insurance. People are choosing between medicine, rent, and food. Even those of us serving on this board are facing extreme increases in premiums to stay insured. When people cannot afford to stay healthy, they cannot stay stable. And when stability cracks, children's learning cracks.

Naming the pain of [#ImmigrantFamilies](#) does not diminish the pain of Black families. Honoring [#Indigenous](#) communities does not erase the needs of others. We are a nation of many stories. Many struggles. Many strengths. Our [#diversity](#) is not a competition or oppression olympics. It is a shared responsibility.

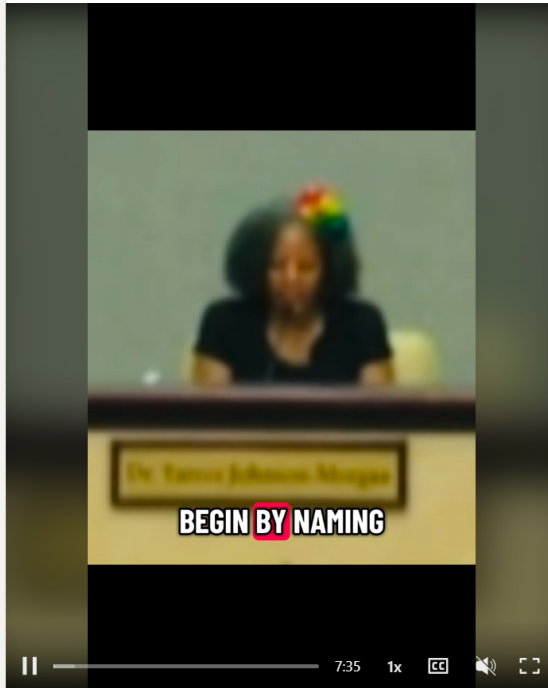
And some of us do carry certain privileges that others do not. [#Privilege](#) is something to use to protect those most targeted by systemic injustice. America is not great for everyone, even if it may feel that way for some. Which is exactly why we must stand with one another.

None of this is about partisanship. It is about [#humanity](#). It is about whether we choose fear or [#belonging](#), silence or [#courage](#), comfort for some or [#freedom](#) for all.

Despite everything, [#joy](#) is a form of [#liberation](#). Resilience is a form of protest. [#CommUNITY](#) care is how we survive and how we thrive.

Love Humanity.

[#Diversity](#) [#Inclusion](#) [#Equity](#) [#Belonging](#) [#Healing](#) [#Liberation](#)



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