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**Notes from editor (not for publication):**

Hi, Emily — This is so nicely written, and I’m personally grateful to know that this is a huge priority for lawmakers. If you haven’t sent it to The Deerfield Valley News, I’m going to forward it to my colleague Mike Eldred for his consideration for Valley Views. All the best, Jeff



HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

####BEGIN HED####

1 We will not be bullied. We’re fighting back.

####END HED####

####BEGIN SUBHED####

2 In Montpelier, lawmakers are working to unmask ICE and  
3 affirming due process to ensure the safety of all Vermonters

####END SUBHED####

4 TEXT BODY:

####BEGIN TEXT####

5 AS WE SIT on the precipice of our 250th anniversary in  
6 this country, the American people’s social contract is faltering.  
7 The federal government is withholding our critical funds  
8 for the health of the American people while our inalienable rights

9 to privacy, due process, and equal protection are under attack in  
10 American streets.

11 Killing citizens like Alex Pretti and Renée Good in  
12 Minnesota. Deporting unaccompanied minors. Detaining and  
13 disappearing people to third countries. Letting people die while  
14 in custody.

15 The litany of offenses rises each and every day  
16 highlighting the cruelty of this federal administration with their  
17 unrelenting desire to inflict maximum pain on the American  
18 people using American taxpayer dollars to do so. This is exactly  
19 what we had feared: indiscriminate abuse of power at the hands  
20 of a tyrannical government.

21 Our federal “partners” are making state functions more  
22 challenging with delays in providing accurate data and short  
23 application windows for funding opportunities for critical needs  
24 like housing, health care, and education. This puts continued  
25 strain on our already-strained state, local, and nonprofit sector  
26 workers who use these funds to better Vermont.

27 The federal government is using *our* state resources to  
28 play colonial war games with our southern neighbors and allies  
29 as it lays waste to long-held and — literally — hard-fought  
30 partnerships with our allies, all to avoid accountability for what’s  
31 in the Epstein Files.

32 President Trump deployed our Vermont National Guard  
33 to Venezuela, taking them away from their loved ones just before  
34 Christmas for an unconstitutional power grab with no clear  
35 objective than to personally line his own pockets.

36 His administration has reassigned Vermont-based U.S.  
37 Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) agents to  
38 Minnesota to help with ICE efforts in an expansion of duties far  
39 beyond the scope of their work.

40 He is threatening every country from Greenland to Iran  
41 and is now offering a \$1 billion security membership program for  
42 countries to control Gaza.

43 He has gone mad for power bent on enriching himself  
44 while depriving the American people and harassing the world.

45 \* \* \*

46 THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT’S attacks run counter to the  
47 work we need to do here in Vermont. We have a bright future to  
48 build together and they are taking away our people and  
49 threatening our funding because we know our rights.

50 While the federal government has a lot of power, we will  
51 not be bullied — we’re fighting back. Both the House and  
52 Senate are introducing bills to limit ICE’s impact, safeguard your  
53 data, and prohibit tracking of your information.

54 We are working to unmask ICE, laying the basis for  
55 ensuring the right to due process. We will continue to work  
56 within our authority to ensure the safety of *all* Vermonters.

57 \* \* \*

58 IF YOU FEEL inclined to jump in the fight, we need your  
59 help.

60 Run for office at any level or help someone run for office.  
61 Get involved with or donate to causes that matter to you. Talk to  
62 your family, friends and neighbors.

63 The federal government’s actions are designed to fracture  
64 our collective power. Do not let it.

65 Let us learn from Minnesota’s example. Love, joy and  
66 community are acts of resistance in this moment. Lean into your  
67 values, lean on each other.

68 We are America and we’ll get through this, together.

####END TEXT####

BIO/COATTAIL:

####BEGIN BIO/COATTAIL####

69 **EMILY CARRIS DUNCAN** (they/she) represents the  
70 Windham-6 district (Wilmington, Whitingham, and Halifax) in  
71 the Vermont House of Representatives, where she serves on the  
72 Commerce and Economic Development Committee, the Joint  
73 Carbon Emissions Reduction Commission, and the County and

74 Regional Governance Committee. Contact her via her [website](#)  
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####END BIO/COATTAIL####

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####END MAXISSUE####

LINKS:

####BEGIN LINKS####

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####END LINKS####

VIDEO:

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####END VIDEO####

LOGLINE (SOCIAL MEDIA):

####BEGIN LOGLINE####

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####END LOGLINE####