

ACLU
Delaware



CONNECT!

DELAWAREANS SUPPORT SAFE SPACES

SPRING 2026

Javonne Rich, Policy & Advocacy Director

Our recent lobby day, in partnership with the Delaware State Education Association (DSEA), was nothing short of amazing. Lobby day was an opportunity for community members to come together, meet with legislators, and advocate for **HS 1 for HB 94**. This bill limits state law enforcement from cooperating with federal immigration enforcement at sensitive locations including schools/daycares, medical facilities and places of worship without a valid judicial warrant or court order.

It may go without saying that this is a **crucial** piece of legislation during this period of relentless attacks on our immigrant friends and family members.

Like many of our lobby days, this event bridged civic engagement with community education. Participants met early in the morning to learn more about how to advocate for legislation and coordinate an effective meeting with legislators.

After about an hour of training, organizing, and practicing, community members, advocates, faith leaders and educators walked to Legislative Hall to begin their mission!

Throughout the day, participants met with legislators and staff, shared personal stories, and spoke up about the urgency to protect our immigrant neighbors. Many participants were able to meet one or both of their own legislators, including some meeting them for the first time.

What made the event especially memorable was the motivation and energy—although we had eleven pre-scheduled meetings, participants were able to initiate meetings with fourteen more legislators by requesting meetings in-person and catching legislators in the halls.

Overall, we were able to arrange for fifty people to meet with and speak to 25 Representatives and Senators across both political parties, urging them to support HS 1 for HB 94. Through this collective advocacy, we were able to get seven legislators to sign on as co-sponsors to the legislation, increasing visible support of protecting people from immigration enforcement in vital spaces.

This kind of progress can only be made when everyday people in Delaware show up and speak out. At the ACLU of Delaware, we are grateful to our partners at DSEA and to every individual that came out and made the day such a success. We are excited to build on this momentum to achieve the win of passing HS 1 for HB 94 this year.

If you want to help advocate for HS 1 for HB 94, you can check out our website at aclu-de.org and our social media channels [@acludelaware](https://twitter.com/acludelaware) to learn more about how you can take action today! 📢

dSEA
Delaware State Education Association
Moving Education Forward

Photos provided by:



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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S NOTE:

Dear Friends —

The ACLU-DE kicked off spring by attending the U.S. Supreme Court oral arguments on the case challenging the 14th Amendment's promise of birthright citizenship to any person born in the U.S.A. It was an incredible experience to travel to Washington, D.C. with a cadre of committed Delawareans, and the rally outside the court was inspiring.

President Donald Trump became the first-ever sitting president to attend an oral argument at the Supreme Court, which was a transparent attempt to put his finger on the scale toward his administration's goal to fundamentally eviscerate the longstanding concept of who is or is not an American. But the ACLU attorneys in the room were not deterred, with National Legal Director Cecillia Wang expertly knocking down the administration's arguments.

I strongly believe the ACLU's arguments will win the day, but we cannot be complacent.

President Trump's attempt to end birthright citizenship is part of a broader effort to gut equal protection under the law, as guaranteed by the 14th Amendment.

If you care about the rights of any group of people who have been historically marginalized—immigrants, Black and brown people, women, LGBTQ+ people, disabled people, religious minorities, and more—then we know this is but one landmark case in a long journey to ensure the full promise of the Constitution for all people.



Mike Bensing

NEW STAFF

HIGHLIGHT



Jac Cichocki, Campaign Communications Manager

Jac joined the ACLU of Delaware team in March of 2026. They grew up in the Newark area and are a University of Delaware alum with grassroots organizing experience from several local community groups and campaigns.

What are you most excited to work on since joining the ACLU of Delaware this year?

“Working with the ACLU provides an opportunity to shape our society into one in which mass surveillance, a lack of data privacy, and being targeted by the government for protected speech are no longer constant threats. Our right to freely boycott companies, organizations, and institutions without repercussion is currently imperilled, as is our right to establish membership and participation in social or political groups disfavored by the government. In this regard, **the ACLU is a formidable force defending the people**, and I look forward to making meaningful, measurable progress toward protecting these First Amendment rights.

Protesters should not have to anticipate digital dragnet surveillance, disable their phones' biometrics or purchase burners, set up VPN kill switches, or use end-to-end encrypted apps to communicate. Internet users should not stop posting their constitutionally protected opinions online out of a fear of being added to some secret list. Likewise, they should not get surprise visits from the FBI intended to intimidate them into silence.

I once felt powerless in the face of these threats. I became well-informed and motivated but was still mostly impotent to creating change. I can now contribute to the collective power of the many wonderful individuals at the ACLU of Delaware who are successfully creating a legacy in service of the people. **I am excited to learn from them, lead with them, and hopefully become an asset to them in our quest for freedom, equality, and accountability.**”

THE AMERICAN TRADITION OF PROTEST

Reflections from a Night with Author Gloria Browne-Marshall

Taylor VanSant, ACLU-DE Volunteer



Pictured (left-to-right): speaker and labor activist Kimoko Harris, speaker and author Gloria Browne-Marshall, and moderator and author Ron Collins

Gloria Browne-Marshall's passion for protest and faith in its power emanated from her as she spoke. She wasn't a guest speaker; she was an activist at the podium of a protest. Lewes author and moderator Ron Collins asked several salient questions connecting centuries long histories of activism with the challenges of today. Gloria and our second speaker Kimoko Harris, a leader with his own long history of labor organizing and activism in Delaware, responded with a cadence and power that drew you in and demanded you listen. They spoke of the past and the present, acts of protest, big and small.

Gloria's book, *A Protest History of the United States*, covers 500 years, beginning with indigenous resistance to the colonization of the Americas. Her goal of writing a historical account of resistance was an attempt to inform how we protest today. We have to look at how progress was made in the past and renew the tried-and-true tactics, adapting them to today's globalized, digital landscape. We have the blueprint: boycotts, general strikes, marches, blockades, and teach-ins.

But how can we use them today? In many ways, it should be easier to achieve liberation today than ever before, whether that is true is yet to be determined. To Gloria, our history of protest is evidence that our fight is effective. It should give us confidence that we can and will succeed. It should motivate us to be change agents.

I found myself shivering from the chilling reminder that history repeats itself. In the same way that resistance strategies reemerge and affect change, the problems that prompt protest rear their ugly heads again and again.

How do we break the cycle, what repeats, and why do we continue to see the past in our present? We can start by recognizing the US as a business enterprise with an "entice, then attack" business model. Gloria was frank with the audience and explained that our country has a habit of enticing immigrants for cheap labor, only to eventually attack them once they're here—a relevant discussion in light of the recent ICE raids happening across the US.

CON'T ON NEXT PAGE...

THE AMERICAN TRADITION OF PROTEST by Taylor VanSant

Throughout history, immigrants from all corners of the Earth have come, built our country up, and contributed to the growing prosperity of our nation. Then, as immigrant groups begin to grow in size and agency, those who have benefited from exploiting immigrants quickly turn to propagating a fear of them.

Gloria and Kimoko see anti-immigration propaganda as just another tactic used to "divide the exploited" and avoid acknowledging the way predatory corporations and faulty government systems contribute to working class subjugation. However, we cannot let ourselves forget the ways in which we as individuals can also be complicit, even perpetrators of division and exploitation, as these oppressive structures are embedded in our way of life.

To paraphrase Gloria, to be American is to have the privilege to oppress someone else. Ultimately, we have a lot to do if we are going to see lasting progress. Perhaps maintaining liberation is a struggle with no end.

I walked away with faith in a better future and faith in *We The People*.

The conversation was hard, but not hopeless. I walked away with faith in a better future and faith in *We The People*. Gloria was inspiring. She's an artist, a lawyer, and an educator. Her activism and work inform one another. She does not limit herself to one form of resistance; she believes it can, and should, be part of everything we do. I walked away from the conversation feeling the importance of what I was going to "do" with my life didn't have to limit the ways I contribute to the common good.

No one should feel that limitation.

My thoughts on equity, liberation, and justice, can be presented as a workshop, a story, a policy, an essay, or an argument. I can channel resistance; it can be part of everything I do. Creating art that makes a statement, boycotting corporations that go against my values, and calling out racism, xenophobia, transphobia, and other forms of discrimination are legitimate efforts to create a more tolerant tomorrow.

It's not always easy. Gloria wanted the audience to understand that resistance has risks, and you have to be brave. You can't be a "freedom freeloader." You have to break cycles: read history, find your values, and know them. Study who you are, reflect on how you present yourself. You might believe in doing what is right, but are you actually doing it? Change takes strategy, tenacity, time, and creativity.



Take a stance, don't be silent, and be ready for consequences. That is how you protest. That is how you make progress. 🗣️

ACLU Delaware

POLICING IN WILMINGTON
A COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

APRIL 25 | 2-4 PM



That's a wrap on our most successful Do More 24 to-date!

Thank you for supporting our 24-hour campaign for civil liberties with your donations, email forwards, social media shares, and words of encouragement. Your contributions raised more than \$32,000 to protect and expand civil rights in Delaware during the 24 hour giving event with your support. These funds will help us achieve our mission of promoting justice and equality for all Delawareans.

Special thank you to our eight ambassadors who helped to highlight what we do and spread the word, and our **nearly 200 individual contributors** who supported us through the event! Over the past year we have witnessed the strength and resilience of Delawareans from all walks of life as thousands rose up to meet the challenges 2025 brought us. The seeds of dissent have been planted.

We The People will grow this movement until we have liberty and justice for all.

RAAD
REPRODUCTIVE ADVOCACY
ALLIANCE OF DELAWARE

Centering Reproductive Justice
May 20, 2026 | 5:30-7:30p | Dover Public Library

Mark your calendar for the first public event hosted by the Reproductive Advocacy Alliance of Delaware (RAAD)! Come join community partners in the fight for reproductive freedom. Learn more at: raad-de.org