*I Have a Friend*

He came to this country from Guatemala thirty years ago.

He waited patiently, entered the country legally,

his grateful, exciting green card in his hand.

After 15 years…he began to apply for citizenship.

It took him 8 years to pass the test – to be able

to say thanks to his God above, thinking he could

finally, truly feel safe.

Today…he is afraid to go out the door of his house,

afraid to drive his car to the grocery store or church,

afraid to drive to work each morning.

He told me this…

“It is my face, Diana…my skin color…I look Mexican.

That is why they keep stopping me,

threatening me, making me late for work.”

The stops were not from the police

nor the sheriffs in his community.

It was ICE sent to terrorize, capture and deport…

selfishly, ignorantly, illegally.

*He is my friend…God bless him*

*Dianahoward2025*