

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

March 20, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mark Amodei
Chairman
House Committee on Homeland Security
2006 Rayburn
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Henry Cuellar
Ranking Member
House Committee on Homeland Security
1036 Longworth
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole, Ranking Member DeLauro, Chairman Amodei, and Ranking Member Cuellar:

As you consider the Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 Homeland Security Appropriations bill, we urge you to include language in the bill to prohibit the use of any federal funding for the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to hire or transfer additional personnel.

Federal law enforcement officers are entrusted with protecting the American people and adhering to the Constitution while conducting their duties. To align with the Trump administration's mass-deportation directives, however, ICE has increased its recruitment and at the same time reduced its training program. Last August, the training program went from 22 weeks to 8 weeks—just 47 days. In September, the training program was reduced even further to a mere 42 days. As a result, these reductions have resulted in the elimination of critical hours of training on immigration case processing, legal authority, and firearms handling—none of which can be adequately replaced with on-the-job training. This rush to hire raises concerns about the quality of vetting, training, and onboarding of ICE officers—12,000 of whom have joined the agency in just the past year, more than doubling the entire force in less than a year.

ICE is growing quickly with little to no accountability. Across the country, masked ICE agents have arrested U.S. citizens, entered their homes without judicial warrants, and used excessive force against people across the country. Two U.S. citizens, Renee Good and Alex Pretti, were shot and killed at the hands of federal immigration enforcement and border patrol agents in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and many more have been unlawfully detained.

Despite the sharp rise in aggressive tactics of federal immigration agents in Minneapolis, Chicago, Los Angeles, and other cities across the country, ICE has failed to reassure Congress and the public that the thousands of new recruits joining the agency's ranks are being properly vetted, trained, and onboarded. Congress cannot continue to allow ICE to hire additional personnel while the agency actively avoids accountability, transparency, or guardrails to protect the American people.

Given these concerns, we urge you to include the following language in the FY 2027 Homeland Security Appropriations bill to prohibit the use of any federal funding for ICE to hire or transfer additional personnel:

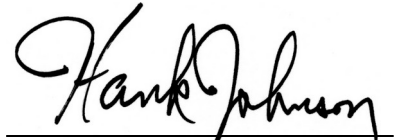
“SEC. ____ None of the funds made available by this act or any other act, including prior Acts and laws other than appropriations Acts, may be obligated or expended to appoint any individual to a position within United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement, or detail or transfer any Federal employee to United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement.”

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Lizzie Fletcher
Member of Congress



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress



Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



Jasmine Crockett
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



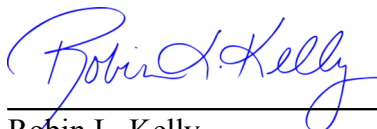
Valerie P. Foushee
Member of Congress



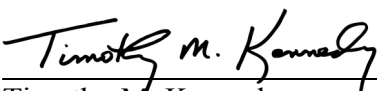
John Garamendi
Member of Congress



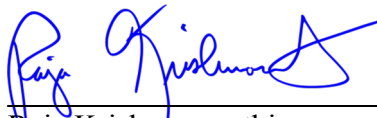
Dan Goldman
Member of Congress



Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress



Timothy M. Kennedy
Member of Congress



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



Darren Soto
Member of Congress



Marc A. Veasey
Member of Congress



Sean Casten
Member of Congress



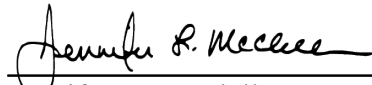
Dina Titus
Member of Congress



Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress



Maxine Dexter
Member of Congress



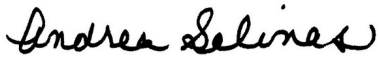
Jennifer L. McClellan
Member of Congress



Melanie Stansbury
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress




Andrea Salinas
Member of Congress



Luz M. Rivas
Member of Congress



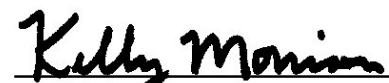
Bill Foster
Member of Congress



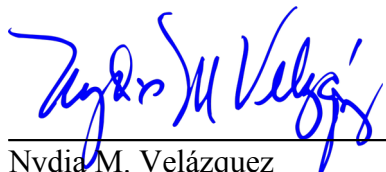
Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress



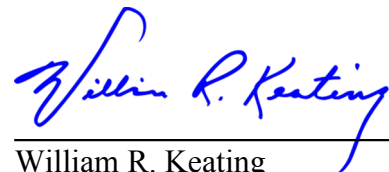
Ritchie Torres
Member of Congress



Kelly Morrison
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



William R. Keating
Member of Congress



Adelta S. Grijalva
Member of Congress



Shri Thanedar
Member of Congress



Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress