

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

November 10, 2025

The Honorable Kristi Noem
Secretary
Department of Homeland Security
301 7th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20528

The Honorable Todd Lyons
Acting Director
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
500 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20536

Dear Secretary Noem and Director Lyons:

We write to express concern regarding the failure of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (“ICE”) and other Department of Homeland Security (“DHS”) immigration enforcement officers to promptly identify themselves during arrests as required by federal regulations. Given the unprecedented degree of immigration enforcement under the Trump Administration’s harmful agenda, these violations of legal requirements undermine public trust in law enforcement and endanger the safety and rights of individuals and communities across the country.

Federal regulation mandates that immigration enforcement personnel identify themselves when carrying out arrests. 8 C.F.R. § 287.8(c) requires that an immigration officer “identify himself or herself as an immigration officer who is authorized to execute an arrest” at the time of the arrest “as soon as it is practical and safe to do so.” This regulatory requirement has been reinforced by judicial decisions, including the *Castañon Nava et al. v. Dep’t of Homeland Security et al* settlement, which requires that ICE document the specific, particularized facts supporting the legal basis for a collateral arrest or vehicle stop, as well as how immigration officers identify themselves surrounding a warrantless arrest or vehicle stop.¹

These requirements establish a clear legal standard that ICE and other federal agencies are failing to meet, endangering the rights of individuals and the integrity of law enforcement operations. Prompt and clear identification provides individuals subject to arrest with the information they need to both understand and assert their rights and hold the federal government accountable. Furthermore, when ICE and other officers do not fulfill their legal obligations to identify themselves, witnesses may reasonably question the authority of immigration officers or interpret law enforcement operations as criminal activity, leading to an unsafe environment for both law enforcement and the public. These practices also raise serious questions regarding potential violations of the Fourth Amendment’s protections against unlawful search and seizure.

¹ [Final Settlement Regarding ICE Warrantless Arrests and Vehicle Stops: Overview of Settlement Requirements and Remedies](#)

As such, we're deeply troubled by incidents across the country in which ICE and other federal immigration enforcement officers reportedly failed to identify themselves appropriately during arrests.² Even more concerning, these arrests often occur while officers are concealed behind masks without any visible identifier such as a name tag or badge number, compounding confusion and reducing transparency. Such routine violations of legal protections demonstrate the Trump Administration's disregard for immigrant rights and intentional use of intimidation tactics that undermine public trust and stoke fear in our communities.

We urge you to take immediate action to ensure federal immigration enforcement officers promptly and clearly identify themselves during arrests. We also request responses to the following questions by November 21, 2025:

1. How does DHS monitor and enforce officer compliance with federal regulations and judicial requirements related to identification during arrests?
2. How does DHS determine whether an officer identified themselves with sufficient promptness to meet the "as soon as it is practical and safe to do so" standard? Please include the criteria, procedures, and oversight mechanisms used to evaluate compliance with this requirement.
3. How many reports or complaints did DHS receive during Fiscal Year 2025 alleging that ICE or other federal immigration officers failed to appropriately identify themselves during an arrest?
4. In how many instances was any disciplinary or corrective action taken in response to such reports or complaints?
5. Please provide a detailed explanation of current policies and training protocols related to the immigration officers' duty to identify themselves during arrests and other enforcement operations.

We urge your office to rectify ongoing violations of legal requirements and uphold the rights and dignity of all individuals subject to immigration enforcement.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. We look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

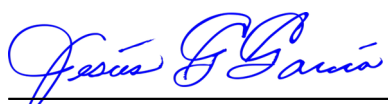


Robert J. Menendez
Member of Congress



Dan Goldman
Member of Congress

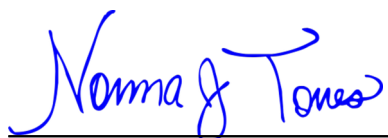
² [Masked and unmarked: The quiet rise of concealed immigration raids : NPR](#)



Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress



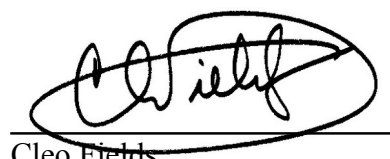
Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress



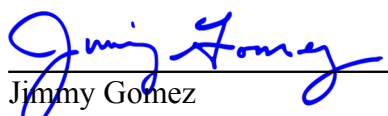
Andrea Salinas
Member of Congress



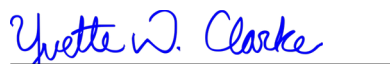
Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



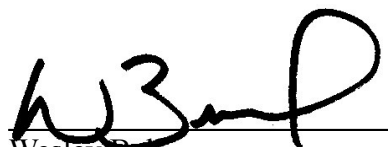
Cleo Fields
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Jimmy Gomez
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Yvette D. Clarke
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Wesley Bell
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Jennifer L. McClellan
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Madeleine Dean
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Juan Vargas
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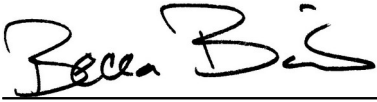
Jasmine Crockett
Member of Congress



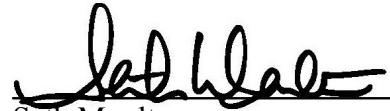
Donald Norcross
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Raul Ruiz, M.D.
Member of Congress



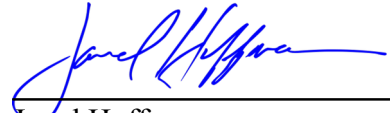
Becca Balint
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Seth Moulton
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Raja Krishnamoorthi
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Jared Huffman
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Yassamin Ansari
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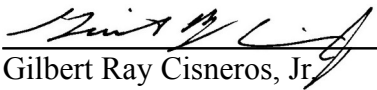
Emanuel Cleaver, II
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Summer L. Lee
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Terrold Nadler
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Gilbert Ray Cisneros, Jr.
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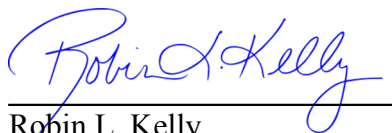
Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress



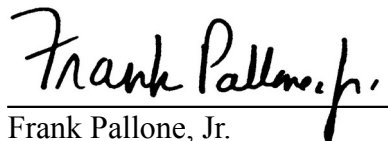
Lloyd Doggett
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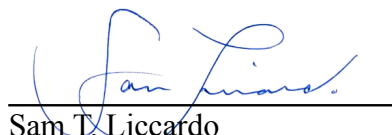
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Rashida Tlaib
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Veronica Escobar
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Paul D. Tonko
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Adam Smith
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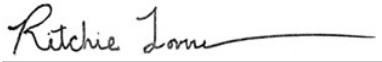
Shri Thanedar
Member of Congress



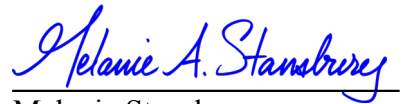
Troy A. Carter, Sr.
Member of Congress



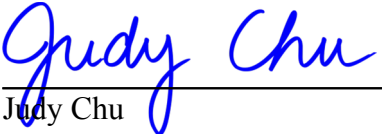
Eleanor Holmes Norton
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Ritchie Torres
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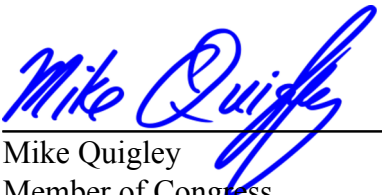
Melanie Stansbury
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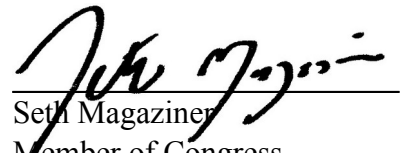
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