

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 7, 2025

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States of America
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump:

We write with grave concern about how your Administration has conducted immigration enforcement over the first 100 days in office. You have repeatedly told the American people that you are focusing your immigration enforcement on the “worst of the worst.” You have also said that if immigrants were here lawfully, that they would have nothing to fear. You have even extolled those who have used legal pathways to be here. And certainly, you assured U.S. citizens, including those who voted for you, that you would be focused on lowering prices for them and making life better.

Unfortunately, it has become apparent that you have completely misled the American people, instead sweeping up large numbers of people indiscriminately, including U.S. citizens and those with lawful status. At the same time, your Administration’s actions have deliberately eroded, evaded, and obfuscated the foundational democratic norms enshrined in our Constitution, including due process, freedom of expression, and separation of powers.

As proud representatives of our world’s oldest democracy, we urgently demand that you immediately reverse course, fully comply with court orders, and work with us to preserve our democracy. Specifically, we raise the following areas of focus for your immediate reversal.

I. Kidnapping and Disappearing Individuals, including U.S. Citizens

Your Administration is kidnapping and disappearing a growing number of people, with multiple accounts surfacing of people being accosted and taken in public streets, at courthouses, and other sensitive locations by apparent plain-clothes officials in unmarked cars. Many of these individuals have legal status in this country, including young U.S. citizen children, lawful permanent residents, and individuals with valid visas or other legal protection. For example, your Administration recently detained Jose Hermosillo, a 19-year-old U.S. citizen, for nearly 10 days in Arizona.¹ In Florida, local law enforcement held Juan Carlos Lopez Gomez, a 20-year-old U.S. citizen, pursuant to an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detainer request and a

¹ José Olivares, *US citizen wrongfully arrested by border patrol in Arizona held for nearly 10 days*, THE GUARDIAN (Apr. 21, 2025) <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/apr/20/us-citizen-jose-hermosillo-border-patrol>.

judge refused to order his release despite having his birth certificate, Social Security card, and state identification card.²

II. Targeting of Students and Scholars with No Due Process

Your Administration has targeted numerous lawful permanent residents using an outdated, McCarthy-era law to crack down on freedom of expression and used the State Department's power to revoke student visas without cause in an unprecedented manner.³ In both the cases of Mahmoud Khalil and Rümeyşa Öztürk, recently released State Department memos have provided no evidence of criminal activity or any other justification to strip them of their lawful permanent residence status.⁴

DHS has also confirmed that since January 20, 2025, ICE has terminated the lawful status of 4,736 students, "based on ongoing initiatives between DHS and DOS directed by Executive Orders signed by the President and directed by the Departments' Secretaries in compliance with those orders."⁵ According to news reports, authorities had revoked the visas of international students in at least 32 states.⁶ Many foreign students now targeted for deportation appear to have done nothing controversial or criminal, and the revocation of their visas seems to be based solely on their expression of speech. Others say they were not even involved in any protests and have received no reason for their visa revocation.

III. Undermining Public Safety, Risking the Safety of Children and Domestic Violence Victims

There are countless examples of ICE using alarming tactics to arrest individuals, risking public safety. On March 27, ICE detained a mother and her 3 children as it executed an arrest warrant for a child predator in Sackets Harbor, New York.⁷ Although the family had applied for asylum and was complying with ICE check-ins ahead of their 2026 court date, ICE threw the family, including a 9-year-old child, into the back of a van with an alleged child predator and

² Gisela Salomon, *A US citizen was held for pickup by ICE even after proving he was born in the country*, THE ASSOCIATED PRESS (Apr. 19, 2025) <https://apnews.com/article/us-citizen-held-ice-florida-law-4b5f5d9c754b56c87d1d8b39dfedfc6c>.

³ See, e.g. Letter led by Representatives Pramila Jayapal, Jamie Raskin & Mary Gay Scanlon re: the attempted to deportation of Mahmoud Khalil (Mar. 14, 2025) https://jayapal.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Letter_Mahmoud_Khalil_03_14_2025_102sigs-copy.pdf.

⁴ Lauren Mascarenhas & Gloria Pazmino, *Newly-released memo from Rubio details government's only evidence in effort to deport Mahmoud Khalil*, CNN (Apr. 10, 2025), <https://www.cnn.com/2025/04/10/us/mahmoud-khalil-evidence-deadline/index.html>; John Hudson, *No evidence linking Tufts student to antisemitism or terrorism*, State Dept. office found, WASHINGTON POST (Apr. 13, 2025) <https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2025/04/13/tufts-student-rumeysha-ozturk-rubio-trump>.

⁵ On file with Committee staff.

⁶ Kimmy Yam, *Student Visa Terminations Have Quickly Hit Over Half of All States. What's Behind It*, NBC NEWS (Apr. 10, 2025), <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/asian-america/international-students-revoked-visas-reasons-why-rcna200313>.

⁷ Ed Shanahan, *Mother and 3 Children Detained by ICE at Upstate N.Y. Farm Are Released*, N.Y. TIMES (Apr. 7, 2025) <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/04/07/nyregion/ice-family-detained-new-york.html>.

sent them to a family detention camp before releasing them 10 days later amidst public outcry.⁸ In New Bedford, Massachusetts, ICE smashed a car window and dragged a couple from their car. Although ICE was looking for a man named “Antonio,” they took the husband, Juan Mendez, into custody.⁹ He has no criminal record and is in the process of regularizing his immigration status.¹⁰ In response, Jon Mitchell, the Mayor of New Bedford, stated “Recently, ICE appears to have broken from its long-standing practice of alerting our police department ahead of planned operations, a decision that poses safety risks to officers, ICE agents, and the public alike.”¹¹

And in a disturbing incident in Los Angeles, ICE officials attempted to enter two different elementary schools.¹² According to the Los Angeles Unified School District Superintendent, the agents said they were there to check on the students’ well-being and lied when they told school officials that the students’ families had given permission for the contact.¹³

IV. Complete Disregard of Due Process and Defiance of Courts

Further, we are deeply alarmed by your actions to unlawfully disappear people—many of whom have not had their day in court, who have no conviction for any crime—to a Salvadoran prison camp, the Centro de Confinamiento del Terrorismo (CECOT). The concept that a democratic government would disappear individuals without any due process to a country that they have never been to is a threat to our basic freedoms and to the rights of all Americans. At CECOT, individuals are exiled to steel planks for sleeping quarters—there are no mats or sheets. The lights are on 24 hours a day. Talking, phone calls, and visitors are not allowed, and individuals are never allowed outdoors.¹⁴ Individuals are subject to torture and inhumane conditions.¹⁵ El Salvador’s justice minister described CECOT as a place where the “only way out is in a coffin.”¹⁶ This is not a prison, it is a gulag.

⁸ Bill Chappell, *‘We love them’: Small N.Y. town embraces a family freed from immigration detention*, NPR (Apr. 8, 2025) <https://www.npr.org/2025/04/08/nx-s1-5354933/sackets-harbor-family-detained>.

⁹ Frank Mulligan, *Caught on video: ICE agents smash car window in New Bedford arrest. Was it the wrong man?*, THE STANDARD-TIMES (Apr. 15, 2025), <https://www.southcoasttoday.com/story/news/2025/04/15/ice-arrest-in-new-bedford-attorney-says-wrong-man-excessive-force/83101967007/>.

¹⁰ Beth Germano & Tammy Mutasa, *Man arrested by ICE in Massachusetts can’t be moved without notice, judge rules* (Apr. 16, 2025), <https://www.cbsnews.com/boston/news/new-bedford-ice-arrest-window-smashed/>.

¹¹ Alysha Palumbo, *Mass. woman speaks out after video shows ICE agents smashing car window to get husband*, NBC NEWS (Apr. 16, 2025) <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/latino/ice-agents-smash-car-window-massachusetts-family-speaks-out-rcna201507>.

¹² Melissa Gomez, Howard Blume, *Federal Officials Arrived, Denied Entry at L.A. Schools Amid Immigration Enforcement Fears*, LA TIMES (Apr. 9, 2025), <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2025-04-09/federal-agents-arrived-denied-entry-at-los-angeles-schools-officials-say>.

¹³ *Id.*

¹⁴ See, e.g. Philip Holsinger, *What the Venezuelans Deported to El Salvador Experienced*, TIME MAGAZINE (Mar. 21, 2025) <https://time.com/7269604/el-salvador-photos-venezuelan-detainees>.

¹⁵ Declaration of Juanita Goebertus on prison conditions in El Salvador for *J.G.G. v. Trump*, HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH (Mar. 19, 2025) <https://www.hrw.org/news/2025/03/20/human-rights-watch-declaration-prison-conditions-el-salvador-jgg-v-trump-case>.

¹⁶ Cecilia Vega, *U.S. sent 238 migrants to Salvadoran mega-prison; documents indicate most have no apparent criminal records*, CBS NEWS (Apr. 6, 2025) <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/what-records-show-about-migrants-sent-to-salvadoran-prison-60-minutes-transcript>.

Moreover, your actions to skirt judicial rulings are a direct threat to the checks and balances that our democracy relies on. In one particularly egregious example, ICE arrested Kilmar Armando Abrego Garcia, a Salvadoran national who escaped gang violence in El Salvador and was granted withholding of removal by a U.S. judge. Despite your Administration's admission that Mr. Abrego Garcia's deportation was an "error,"¹⁷ you have continued to refuse to "facilitate" his return to the United States as required by the Supreme Court decision. Your ongoing resistance to court orders resulted in a Fourth Circuit decision stating that:

*The government is asserting a right to stash away residents of this country in foreign prisons without the semblance of due process that is the foundation of our constitutional order. Further, it claims in essence that because it has rid itself of custody that there is nothing that can be done. This should be shocking not only to judges, but to the intuitive sense of liberty that Americans far removed from courthouses still hold dear.*¹⁸

And it has not ended there. When the President of El Salvador visited the White House in April you openly discussed sending U.S. citizens to foreign prisons.¹⁹ Our Constitution enshrines the rights to due process and freedom of expression as well as separation of powers. The idea that individuals can be picked up off the street and thrown into a detention camp—or worse, expelled to a foreign gulag—is the hallmark of authoritarian regimes, not a thriving democracy.

Immigration and immigrants are the backbone of this country. Despite your promises to go after the "worst of the worst" you have terrorized immigrant communities of all statuses who are our friends, family, and neighbors. We urgently demand you to immediately reverse course, fully comply with court orders, and work with us to preserve our democracy.

Sincerely,

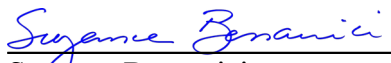


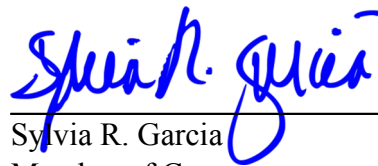
Pramila Jayapal
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on
Immigration Integrity,
Security, and Enforcement

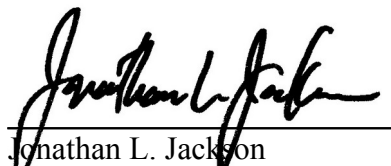
¹⁷ Defendants' Memorandum of Law in Opposition to Plaintiffs' Emergency Motion for Temporary Restraining Order, <https://storage.courtlistener.com/recap/gov.uscourts.mdd.578815/gov.uscourts.mdd.578815.11.0.pdf>.

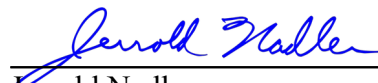
¹⁸ *Abrego Garcia v. Noem* (4th Cir. 2025)


¹⁹ Brian Mann, 'Homegrown are Next': Trump Hopes to Deport and Jail U.S. Citizens Abroad, NPR (Apr. 16, 2025), <https://www.npr.org/2025/04/16/nx-s1-5366178/trump-deport-jail-u-s-citizens-homegrown-el-salvador>.



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress

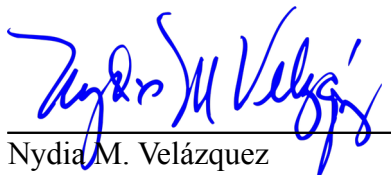

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Jonathan L. Jackson
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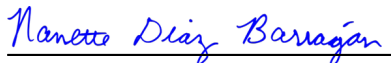

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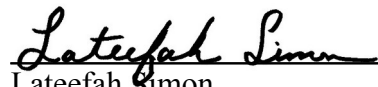

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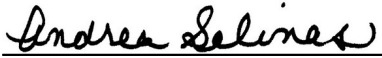

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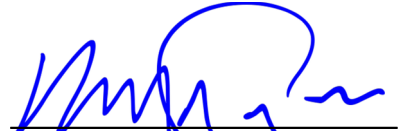

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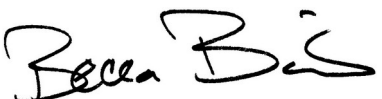
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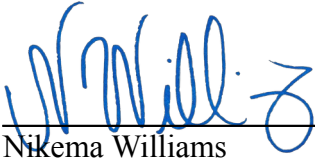
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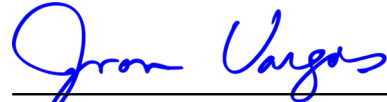
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Bonnie Watson Coleman
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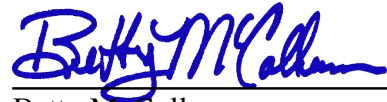
MARK TAKANO
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Juan Vargas
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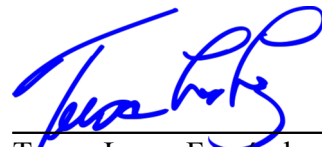
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