

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 1, 2025

The Honorable Marco Rubio
Secretary
Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20520

The Honorable Kristi Noem
Secretary
Department of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Rubio and Secretary Noem:

We are deeply concerned by recent reports that the Department of State (DOS) is revoking the visas of students in the United States without any transparency, including through the use of Artificial Intelligence tools.¹ Equally troubling are recent reports that Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is terminating the legal status of students, and in some cases, not even informing them or their respective institutions.²

On March 27, Secretary Rubio stated that DOS has been revoking visas for students on a daily basis, and that the total number “might be more than 300 at this point.”³ Secretary Rubio declined to provide any information about the process through which students are identified for visa revocation.⁴ According to recent reporting, more than 1,800 students and recent graduates across 280 colleges and universities have had their visas revoked.⁵ Secretary Rubio has also reportedly asked the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to “detain students or recent graduates for deportation because of what he called their opposition to American foreign policy.”⁶

Additionally, ICE is manually terminating students’ legal status in the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS), a web-based system used for tracking and managing the legal status of foreign students and exchange visitors. DHS confirmed that since January 20, 2025, ICE has terminated the 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.”⁷ DHS further confirmed that ICE will terminate a student’s legal status “in instances where there is evidence that a student has

¹ Marc Caputo, *State Dept. to use AI to revoke visas of foreign students who appear “pro-Hamas”*, AXIOS (Mar. 6, 2025), <https://www.axios.com/2025/03/06/state-department-ai-revoke-foreign-student-visas-hamas>.

² Prem Thaker, *ICE Revoking Students’ Immigration Statuses Without Their or the University’s Knowledge*, ZETEO (Mar. 29, 2025), <https://zeteo.com/p/ice-manually-revoking-university-students-residency-status-middle-east>.

³ Daniella Silva, Chloe Atkins, Julia Ainsley and Abigail Williams, *Trump takes aim at foreign-born college students, with 300 visas revoked*, NBC NEWS (Mar. 27, 2025), <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/trump-administration-takes-aim-immigrant-students-rcna198346>.

⁴ Edward Wong, *Rubio Says He Has Revoked 300 or More Visas in Trump’s Deportation Push*, N.Y. TIMES (Mar. 27, 2025), <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/03/28/us/politics/rubio-immigration-students-ozturk-chung-khalil.html>.

⁵ Ashley Mowreader, *International Student Visas Revoked*, INSIDE HIGHER ED, <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/global/international-students-us/2025/04/07/where-students-have-had-their-visas-revoked>.

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ On file with Committee staff.

violated a criminal law as determined by HSI agents, had their visa revoked by Department of State (DOS), or otherwise committed a violation of their nonimmigrant status.”⁸

But DHS’s ability to terminate a student’s legal status “is limited by [8 C.F.R.] § 214.1(d).”⁹ Under this regulation, DHS can terminate a student’s legal status in SEVIS only when: (1) a previously granted waiver under 8 U.S.C. § 1182(d)(3) or (4) is revoked; (2) a private bill to confer lawful permanent residence is introduced in Congress; or (3) DHS publishes a notification in the Federal Register identifying national security, diplomatic, or public safety reasons for termination. If ICE fails to comply with the requirements set forth in 8 C.F.R. 214.1(d) when terminating students’ legal status, then those terminations are unlawful.

Moreover, according to officials at several universities, ICE is not even notifying students and universities of these terminations in some cases,¹⁰ leaving students vulnerable to sudden apprehension by ICE with no explanation for why they are being targeted. Some universities are even “checking on visa revocations hourly and being on call to share SEVIS termination with the student quickly.”¹¹ This appears to be an attack on student visa holders writ-large, and not just on those who hold policy positions with which the administration disagrees.

Across the country, students are being picked up – in some cases by masked immigration agents in unmarked cars – and being held in detention facilities with no warning and limited information as to why they are being deported. In one instance, Rumeysa Ozturk, a Turkish national and Fulbright Scholar pursuing her Ph.D. at Tufts University, was detained by ICE agents on March 25, 2025, outside her apartment building in Somerville, Massachusetts.¹² She was surrounded on the sidewalk by six agents in plainclothes and masks who handcuffed her and hustled her into an unmarked car. Ms. Ozturk was driven to multiple government offices in New England and then flown 1,300 miles away the next day to an ICE facility in Louisiana, where she is currently detained.¹³ Throughout this process, she was not charged with any wrongdoing or given the opportunity to speak with a lawyer.¹⁴

In another case, an Iranian national and doctoral student at the University of Alabama was detained by ICE at his home at 5:00 a.m.¹⁵ While DHS has issued a public statement alleging that the student posed “national security concerns,” his lawyer confirmed that he is not aware of any allegations of misconduct against his client¹⁶ and that “DHS has not provided a reason as to why [he] would be labeled a national security threat.”¹⁷ The Departments of State and Homeland Security have yet to provide any additional information to the student or his lawyer.

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ *Jie Fang v. Director U.S. Immigration & Customs Enforcement*, 935 F.3d 172, 185 n.100 (3d Cir. 2019).

¹⁰ Thaker, *supra* note 2.

¹¹ Stuart Anderson, *Trump Immigration Policies Increase Peril For International Students*, FORBES (Mar. 31, 2025), <https://www.forbes.com/sites/stuartanderson/2025/03/31/trump-immigration-policies-increase-peril-for-international-students/>.

¹² Gloria Pazmino, *What we know about the Tufts University PhD student detained by federal agents*, CNN (Mar. 28, 2025), <https://edition.cnn.com/2025/03/27/us/rumeysa-ozturk-detained-what-we-know/index.html>.

¹³ *Id.*

¹⁴ *Id.*

¹⁵ Patrick Smith, *ICE detains University of Alabama doctoral student as government's college crackdown continues*, NBC NEWS (Mar. 27, 2025), <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/university-alabama-doctoral-student-detained-ice-governments-college-c-rcna198320>.

¹⁶ *Id.*

This heavy-handed approach has even extended to Lawful Permanent Residents like Columbia student, Yunseo Chung, who has lived in the United States since she was seven years old. Over the course of five days, DHS agents showed up at Ms. Chung's parents' house in search of her, and federal law enforcement agents executed search warrants at two residences on Columbia University's campus, including Ms. Chung's dorm, on the basis that the University was "harboring" an immigrant unlawfully.¹⁸ The harboring statute, 8 U.S.C. § 1324, specifically states that it does not apply to non-citizens "lawfully admitted for permanent residence," like Ms. Chung.¹⁹

For generations, America's universities have been the bedrock of debate, free speech, and the open exchange of ideas. Our campuses have been spaces where students and scholars from around the world come together to challenge assumptions, push the boundaries of knowledge, and foster the innovation that has made our country a global leader. Moreover, international students enrolling in our universities is essential to maintain our world class STEM programs.²⁰ But today, the Trump administration's heavy-handed and politically motivated immigration enforcement is turning university campuses into places of fear, rather than learning, and these actions deter students from coming to study at U.S. institutions. This is not about national security. It is about using immigration enforcement as a weapon to stifle political dissent, restrict due process, and enforce an exclusionary and nativist vision of America that runs counter to everything our institutions of higher learning stand for.

Given the extraordinary concerns raised by these actions, please produce the following information by May 15, 2025:

1. How many student visas (F, J, M) has the Department of State revoked since January 20, 2025?
 - a. Please provide the following details for each revoked visa:
 - i. The specific visa type;
 - ii. The legal authority for the revocation;
 - iii. The country of origin for the student; and
 - iv. The academic institution the student is attending.
2. According to DHS, as of April 10, 2025, ICE has terminated the status of 4,736 students. How many students have had their legal status terminated in SEVIS by ICE since then?
 - a. Please provide the following details for each status termination since January 20, 2025:

¹⁷ Drew Taylore, *Alireza Doroudi arrest in Alabama may have been part of a 'targeted operation' by ICE, attorney says*, CBS 42 (Apr. 2, 2025), <https://www.cbs42.com/news/local/alireza-doroudi-arrest-in-alabama-may-have-been-part-of-a-targeted-operation-by-ice-attorney-says/>.

¹⁸ Jonah E. Bromwich and Hamed Aleaziz, *Columbia Student Hunted by ICE Sues to Prevent Deportation*, N.Y. TIMES (Mar. 24, 2025), <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/03/24/nyregion/columbia-student-ice-suit-yunseo-chung.html>.

¹⁹ 8 U.S.C. §§ 1324; [1324a\(h\)\(3\)](#).

²⁰ See, e.g., Jack Corrigan, *The advantages of foreign STEM students staying in the US*, THE HILL (Jun. 14, 2022) <https://thehill.com/opinion/immigration/3522679-the-advantages-of-foreign-stem-students-becoming-us-citizens>; Yingyi Ma, *How America lost the heart of China's top talent*, BROOKINGS INSTITUTION (Nov. 16, 2023) <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/how-america-lost-the-heart-of-chinas-top-talent>.

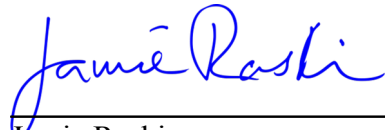
- i. The specific legal status terminated;
 - ii. The legal authority for the termination;
 - iii. The country of origin for the student; and
 - iv. The academic institution the student is attending.
3. What criteria or factors does the Department of State use to identify students for visa revocation?
4. What criteria does ICE use to identify students for termination of legal status in SEVIS?
5. Does the Department of State or ICE use Artificial Intelligence tools to identify students for potential visa revocation or termination of legal status in SEVIS?
 - a. If so, please provide detailed information regarding each Artificial Intelligence tool used.
6. Are students and their schools notified when the student's visa is revoked or their legal status in SEVIS is terminated?
 - a. If so, what is the process for notification?
 - b. If no notification is provided, what is the justification for withholding such information?

Thank you for your attention to this very important matter.

Sincerely,



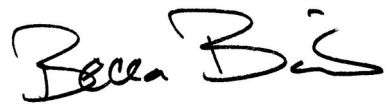
Pramila Jayapal
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on
Immigration Integrity,
Security, and Enforcement



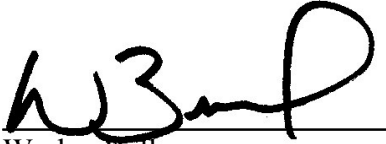
Jamie Raskin
Ranking Member
House Committee on the
Judiciary



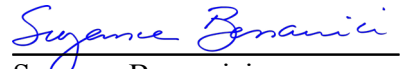
Gabe Amo
Member of Congress



Becca Balint
Member of Congress



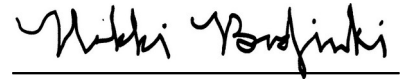
Wesley Bell
Member of Congress



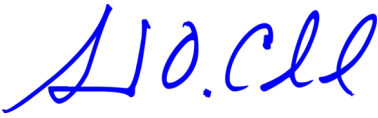
Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Shontel M. Brown
Member of Congress




Nikki Budzinski
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



Andre Carson
Member of Congress



Troy A. Carter, Sr.
Member of Congress



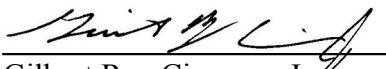
Greg Casar
Member of Congress



Kathy Castor
Member of Congress



Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress



Gilbert Ray Cisneros, Jr.
Member of Congress



Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress



Gerald E. Connolly
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J. Luis Correa
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Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress



Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



Maxine Dexter
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



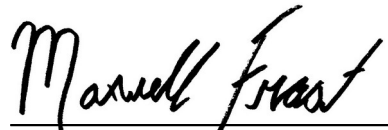
Veronica Escobar
Member of Congress



Cleo Fields
Member of Congress



Bill Foster
Member of Congress



Maxwell Alejandro Frost
Member of Congress



Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



Robert Garcia
Member of Congress



Sara Jacobs
Member of Congress



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



Julie Johnson
Member of Congress



Jim Himes
Member of Congress



Val Hoyle
Member of Congress



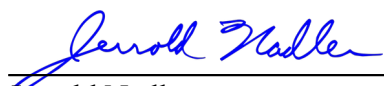
William R. Keating
Member of Congress



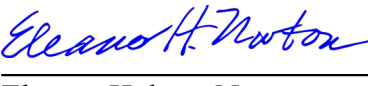
Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



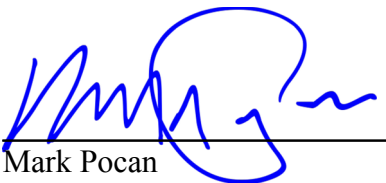
LaMonica McIver
Member of Congress



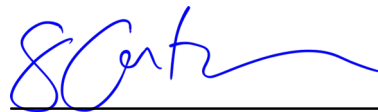
Jerrold Nadler
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Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



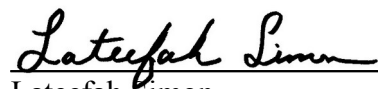
Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



Sean Casten
Member of Congress



Delia C. Ramirez
Member of Congress



Lateefah Simon
Member of Congress



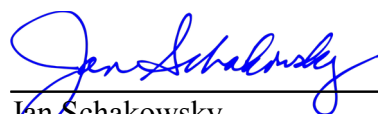
Gwen S. Moore
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Ted W. Lieu
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Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



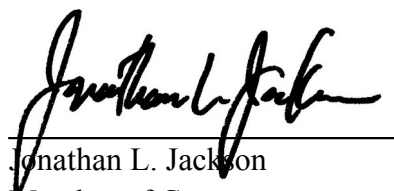
Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



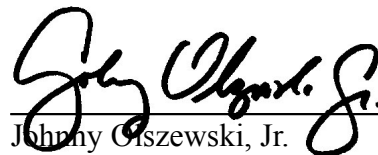
Mary Gay Scanlon
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Scott H. Peters
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Jonathan L. Jackson
Member of Congress



Johnny Ciszewski, Jr.
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Raja Krishnamoorthi
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Steve Cohen
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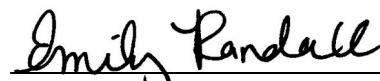
Paul Tonko
Member of Congress



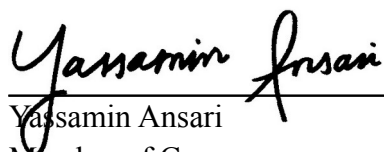
Summer L. Lee
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James P. McGovern
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Emily Randall
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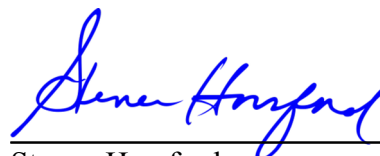
Yassamin Ansari
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Ayanna Pressley
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Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
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Steven Horsford
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Dave Min
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Sylvia R. Garcia
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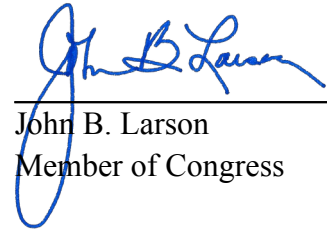
Jimmy Panetta
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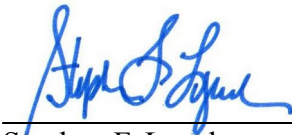
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John Garamendi
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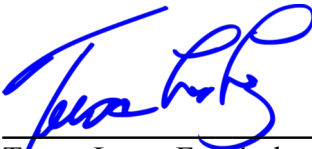
John B. Larson
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Stephen F. Lynch
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Joseph D. Morelle
Member of Congress



Teresa Leger Fernández
Member of Congress



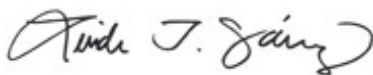
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Deborah K. Ross
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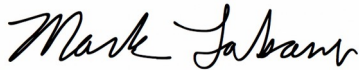
Andrea Salinas
Member of Congress



Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress



Adam Smith
Member of Congress



MARK TAKANO
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Shri Thanedar
Member of Congress



Rashida Tlaib
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Lori Trahan
Member of Congress



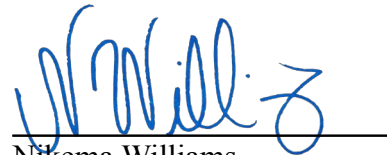
Lauren Underwood
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velázquez
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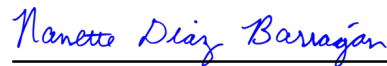
Maxine Waters
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Nikema Williams
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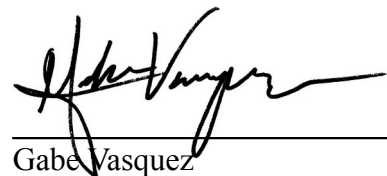
Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



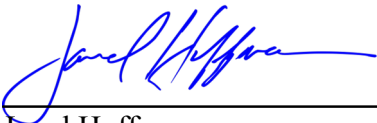
Nanette Diaz Barragán
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Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress



Gabe Vasquez
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



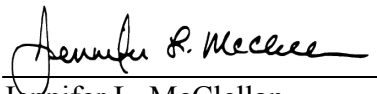
Seth Magaziner
Member of Congress



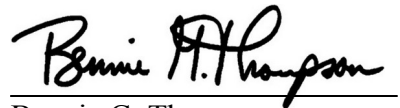
Ro Khanna
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Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress



Jennifer L. McClellan
Member of Congress



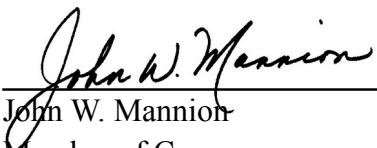
Bennie G. Thompson
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Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress



Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress



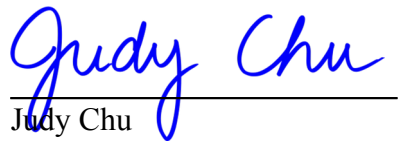
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Maggie Goodlander
Member of Congress



Glenn Ivey
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Judy Chu
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Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress



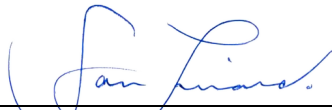
Dina Titus
Member of Congress



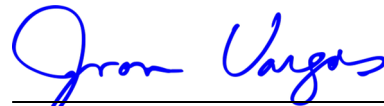
Julia Brownley
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Jason Crow
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Sam T. Luccardo
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Juan Vargas
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Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



Al Green
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Jake Auchincloss
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Kelly Morrison
Member of Congress



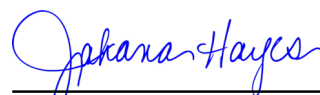
Kevin Mullin
Member of Congress



Robert J. Menendez
Member of Congress



Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress



Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress



Laura Friedman
Member of Congress




Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



Mike Levin
Member of Congress



Sydney Kamlager-Dove
Member of Congress



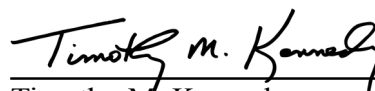
Jim Tokuda
Member of Congress



Valerie P. Foushee
Member of Congress



Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress



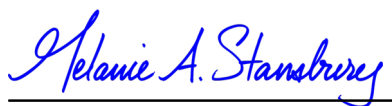
Timothy M. Kennedy
Member of Congress



Doris Matsui
Member of Congress



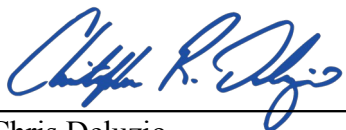
Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress



Melanie Stansbury
Member of Congress



Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress



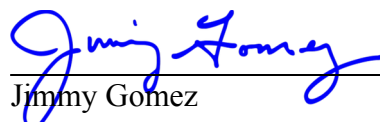
Chris Deluzio
Member of Congress



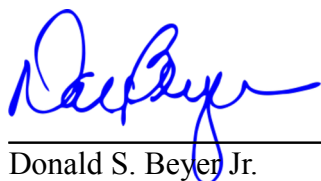
Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress



Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



Dwight Evans
Member of Congress



Suhas Subramanyam
Member of Congress



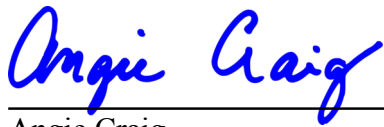
Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman
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Marc A. Veasey
Member of Congress



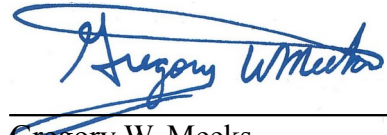
Angie Craig
Member of Congress



Lizzie Fletcher
Member of Congress



Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress



Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress



Luz M. Rivas
Member of Congress



Brittany Pettersen
Member of Congress

CC: Todd M. Lyons, Acting Director, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement