

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 27, 2025

Mr. Joseph Cuffari
Inspector General
Department of Homeland Security
245 Murray Dr., Building 410
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Inspector General Cuffari:

We write regarding recent actions undertaken by several agencies under your jurisdiction, including the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and U.S. Customs and Border Patrol (CBP). Specifically, we request an investigation into alleged violations of due process rights and indiscriminate deployment of immigration enforcement actions impacting children.

On October 7, 2025, U.S. District Judge Jeffrey Cummings ruled that ICE agents operating in the Chicago area under the Department of Homeland Security's "Operation Safeguard 2025" and in Liberty, Missouri, repeatedly violated a 2022 consent decree, *Castañon Nava et al. v. Department of Homeland Security et al.* The consent decree instituted guardrails around ICE agents' ability to conduct warrantless arrests, and ICE issued a nationwide policy requiring agents to document the facts and circumstances surrounding a warrantless arrest or vehicle stop. Because Defendants failed to substantially comply with the consent decree, Judge Cummings extended the consent decree through February 2, 2026.

In his ruling, Judge Cummings found that ICE agents failed to adhere to these policies and unlawfully detained more than two dozen people since January. Specifically, Judge Cummings took issue with the use of warrant forms, known as I-200s, that were intentionally left blank and then filled out while in the field. In September, in the *Perdomo* case, the Supreme Court stayed an injunction restricting racial and linguistic profiling by ICE officers in southern California effectively allowing ICE to resume using those profiling-based stops while litigation continues. In light of *Perdomo* and allegations that the administration has created daily quotas for deportations, we are very concerned about the potential for violations of due process as well as the Fourth Amendment.

Since the beginning of the year, multiple credible reports indicate that immigration enforcement arrests and raids have involved significant violations of due process rights. Dozens of individuals – including American citizens – have been detained without judicial warrants, legal notification, or access to legal counsel. In a widely reported case, federal agents conducted a militarized raid on an apartment complex in Chicago's South Shore neighborhood on September 30, 2025.¹ According to the Department of Homeland Security, the raid was conducted because the location was "known to be frequented by Tren de Aragua gang members." Thirty-seven people were arrested during the operation with only eight having a criminal record and, according to DHS, only one person arrested was a "verified" member of the gang. We, the undersigned, have previously requested an investigation into this operation and two additional incidents involving deadly use of force since the launch of "Operation Midway Blitz."²

¹ "'Military-style' ICE Raid On Chicago Apartment Building Shows Escalation in Trump's Crackdown," October 4, 2025, TIME, <https://time.com/7323334/ice-raid-chicago-pritzker-trump>

² "Rep. Robin Kelly leads member of Illinois delegation in demanding answers, accountability for ICE raids in South Shore shootings in Illinois," October 10, 2025, <https://robinkelly.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/rep-kelly-leads-members-illinois-delegation-demanding-answers>

There are numerous reports of ICE and unidentified federal law enforcement officers using or threatening to use force in circumstances that raise serious concerns. For example, in September, a pastor engaged in silent prayer was shot in the head with a pepper ball by a federal agent on a roof. Moments later, he was sprayed in the face with tear gas by officers on the street.³ A federal officer reportedly shot a pepper ball at the vehicle of a CBS News Chicago reporter in September, causing the chemical agents to “engulf the inside of her truck” and causing her to vomit.⁴ No protest was happening when the chemical agents were fired. More recently, on October 7, four U.S. citizens were shot with pepper balls, maced, and arrested without a warrant in Forest Park, Illinois.⁵ These arrests came after ICE agents forcibly broke a gate to enter the private cemetery, for which they also did not have a warrant, where these citizens were working. These citizens were left to wait for hours for medical attention and were ultimately released without any charges. News reports also documented a recent case in which a U.S. citizen was arrested under suspicion of being an undocumented immigrant despite having proof of citizenship on her person.⁶ According to reports, masked federal agents refused to accept her proof of citizenship because they did not believe her family name matched their perception of her race. On September 25, a single mother of three was detained despite not having a criminal background.⁷ She had worked as a street vendor on the same corner of the Back of the Yards neighborhood for 10 years, becoming a respected member of the community. Following her arrest, neighbors stepped in to run her stand to raise funds for her family. These alleged violations of due process are harming communities, targeting Illinoisans without criminal backgrounds, and endangering immigrants and citizens alike.

In addition to conducting warrantless arrests, ICE operations are also having a severe impact on children in our communities. At schools in and around Chicago, classes are being disrupted, and students are being traumatized by ICE arrests. For example, on October 3, classes were disrupted at Funston Elementary School when ICE conducted a raid at a grocery store next to the school.⁸ Tear gas used by ICE in the raid blew towards the school, forcing students to take shelter inside. Teachers at Funston and around Chicago have reported a drop in student attendance due to fear of ICE raids.

Chicago Public schools set up a District Command Center in response to fear and anxiety due to federal immigration enforcement operations.⁹ School leaders report students unable to sleep, losing appetite, general fear and anxiety. A number of parents have expressed concern about sending kids to school. And the reports of the treatment of children at the South Shore raid who were dragged from their beds into U-Hauls and zip-tied in the middle of the night is completely unacceptable and must be investigated and never allowed to occur again.¹⁰

³ See Complaint, Chicago Headline Club et al v. Noem, No. 25-cv- 12173 (N.D. Illinois, Oct. 6, 2025), <https://www.loevy.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/Broadview-Complaint-10.06.25.pdf>.

⁴ “Criminal investigation launched after feds fire pepper ball at CBS Chicago reporter's truck,” September 28, 2025, <https://www.cbsnews.com/chicago/news/feds-fire-pepper-ball-at-cbs-chicago-reporters-truck/>

⁵ “ICE detained US citizens in Chicago area cemetery, officials say,” October 14, 2025, Fox 32 Chicago, <https://www.fox32chicago.com/news/forest-park-ice-arrests>

⁶ “ICE tickets Chicago man with legal residency \$130 for not having his papers on him: ‘It’s not fair...I’m a resident,’” October 13, 2025, <https://www.chicagotribune.com/2025/10/13/ice-fines-chicago-man-for-not-having-papers-on-him/>

⁷ “Tamale vendor arrested by ICE on Southwest Side of Chicago,” September 25, 2025, CBS News, <https://www.cbsnews.com/chicago/news/tamale-vendor-arrested-ice-agents-back-of-the-yards/>

⁸ “Federal agent throws tear gas canister from SUV on busy Chicago street,” October 3, 2025, CBS News, <https://www.cbsnews.com/chicago/news/federal-immigration-agent-throws-tear-gas-canister-logan-square-street/>

⁹ “Chicago Public Schools Sets Up District Command Center in Response to ‘Fear and Anxiety’ From ICE Operations, October 8, 2025, WTTW, <https://news.wttw.com/2025/10/08/chicago-public-schools-sets-district-command-center-response-fear-and-anxiety-ice>

¹⁰ “ICE Agents Rappel from Helicopter in Overnight Chicago Raid, Dragging Kids from Beds to U-Hauls,” October 2, 2025, People, <https://people.com/ice-agents-overnight-chicago-raid-11823082>

These are just a few of many reported stories documenting disturbing and likely illegal actions by several agencies under your jurisdiction. In addition to warrantless arrests and ICE operations harming children, there are well documented reports of our constituents being impacted by ICE's excessive use of force, crowd control tactics, and overall campaign of fear and intimidation.

Nevertheless, DHS remains bound by federal law limiting racial profiling and discrimination. It is constrained by the Department of Justice (DOJ)'s revised Guidance for Federal Law Enforcement Agencies Regarding the Use of Race, Ethnicity, Gender, National Origin, Religion, Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and Disability. The guidance aims to limit profiling by federal law enforcement based on various stereotypes, instead encouraging them to employ "fair and unbiased law enforcement practices." To that end, the guidance "prohibits consideration of a person's race, ethnicity, gender, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability status unless specific conditions are present," as well as "the use of generalized assumptions or stereotypes about individuals or groups bearing these characteristics as a basis for law enforcement decision-making." In 2023, DHS issued a policy statement affirming that the 2023 DOJ Guidance is the policy of DHS.¹¹

With this context in mind, we have grave concerns for our constituents' safety and due process rights. We are also concerned about the lack of transparency and oversight of the agency's actions amid possible violations of the 2022 consent decree. We ask that you formally examine the activities of employees, agents, independent contractors, temporary employees, and others acting on behalf of DHS, USCIS, ICE, and/or CBP to determine to what degree recent arrests have been unlawful, violate agency standards and protocols, or mis-use agency funding. In particular, we request responses to the following questions:

1. How many warrantless arrests have occurred in Illinois between January 20, 2025, and October 27, 2025?
 - a. During the same time frame, how many people have been arrested with the use of I-200 warrants that were completed in the field?
 - b. What are DHS's current policies regarding the use of I-200s?
 - c. How many of those arrested through warrantless arrests were under 18 years of age?
2. How many U.S. citizens have been arrested by federal law enforcement in Illinois since January 20, 2025, in connection with immigration enforcement of enforcement activity in the vicinity of a DHS facility? How many of these citizens were arrested without a warrant?
 - a. How many U.S. citizens have been detained for longer than 24 hours in such federal law enforcement operations in Illinois since January 20, 2025?
 - b. How many U.S. citizens under the age of 18 have been detained in such federal law enforcement operations in Illinois since January 20, 2025?
3. Since January 20, 2025, during civil immigration enforcement by federal law enforcement officers/agents:
 - a. How many people have been detained in Illinois?
 - b. How many of those people have had a criminal record?
 - c. How many people have been deported?
 - d. How many people have been arrested at their place of employment?
 - e. How many people have been arrested at their place of residence?
 - f. How many collateral arrests have occurred?

¹¹ Memorandum for DHS Agency and Officer Leaders from DHS Secretary Alejandro N. Mayorkas, Policy Statement 500-02, May 25, 2023.

- g. How many arrests have been the result of traffic stops?
4. DHS policy states that officers are directed to use common sense when deciding whether to enter protected areas, such as in or around schools and places of worship, for enforcement operations.
 - a. Is DHS collecting information or conducting any other form of oversight regarding federal immigration enforcement operations at or near protected areas? If so, how many such operations have occurred since January 20, 2025? Under what circumstances is supervisory approval sought prior to such an operation?
 - b. Are there any situations in which DHS agents must ask permission before conducting operations in or near hospitals, schools, or places of worship?
 - c. Does DHS inform school or hospital staff of enforcement operations on their property?
 - d. What justification was given for conducting an ICE raid next to Funston Elementary during school hours?
 - e. Who authorized the deployment of tear gas next to Funston Elementary during school hours?
 - i. What protocols exist to request and approve the use of tear gas and other HAZMAT near sensitive locations?
 5. Is DHS collecting information or conducting any other form of oversight regarding use of deadly and non-deadly force in street enforcement operations and at DHS facilities?
 - a. Under current DHS guidance and policy, what notification and authorizations is required for the use of HAZMAT and other non-deadly weapons in enforcement operations?
 - b. Which subcomponent of DHS is currently receiving and reviewing complaints regarding excessive use of force?
 - c. What DHS components, subcomponents, or review boards are reviewing and analyzing use of force incidents from the perspective of training, trend identification, and policy improvements? How many and what cases have they reviewed since January 20, 2025?
 6. On September 5, 2025, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced that for the first time in the agency's history, it would create "special agents" who will be authorized to carry firearms and arrest people for both civil and criminal immigration and non-immigration violations.
 - a. How does USCIS plan to train these special agents to carry out law enforcement duties? Please include information on how long agents will be trained, who will be training the agents, and the training curriculum.
 - b. Since this announcement, how many USCIS employees have been deputized or designated as "special agents" and have they been engaged in enforcement activities?
 - c. Please include information about the number of enforcement actions – including arrests – that these agents have carried out as well the location, type of alleged offense, and citizenship or immigration status of the individuals arrested?
 - d. Does USCIS have a use of force review committee that will be performing internal analyses of uses of force by USCIS special agents? If so, who is on the committee? What determinations or conclusions are they charged with making?
 - e. Does the deployment and mission of this new class of USCIS special agents comply with the congressionally-mandated separation of functions between USCIS and ICE/CBP? If so, please provide the legal justification for such action.
 - f. What coordination currently exists or will exist between ICE, CBP, and USCIS regarding immigration enforcement activities?

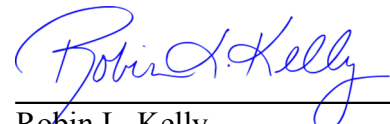
7. In the wake of the Supreme Court's September 8 order pausing a lower court's ruling that limited ICE's ability to make immigration stops based on alleged racial and linguistic profiling – and given recent reports of U.S. citizens being unlawfully detained – how is DHS ensuring compliance with federal law and agency guidance that continues to restrict racial profiling and related practices?
- a. Additionally, does DHS interpret this order as authorization for agents to profile individuals based in part or whole on the basis of race, ethnicity, or language? If so, how does the department reconcile this interpretation with its obligations under the Fifth Amendment and federal anti-discrimination laws?

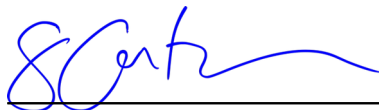
Considering the above alleged misconduct and the recent decision by President Trump and Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth to federalize and deploy the National Guard to the state of Illinois to support immigration enforcement activities, we request a prompt investigation and answers to our questions by November 21, 2025. We will continue to monitor the ongoing immigration enforcement operations in Illinois and request additional investigations as necessary. The Office of the Inspector General plays an integral role in the oversight of federal immigration enforcement and the protection of our constituents' constitutional rights. We look forward to your investigation into this urgent and rapidly developing situation.

Sincerely,

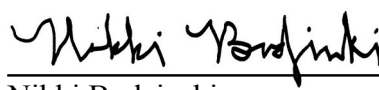

Mike Quigley
Member of Congress


Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress

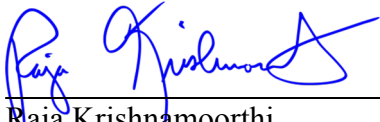

Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress


Sean Casten
Member of Congress


Delia C. Ramirez
Member of Congress


Nikki Budzinski
Member of Congress

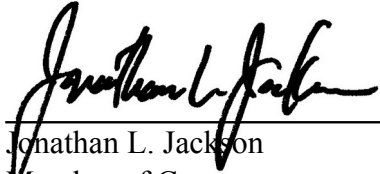

Eric Sorensen
Member of Congress



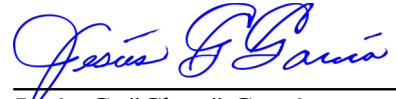
Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Jonathan L. Jackson
Member of Congress



Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



Bill Foster
Member of Congress



Lauren Underwood
Member of Congress



Bradley Scott Schneider
Member of Congress