



Stop Excessive Force in Immigration Act

Led by Reps. Scott Peters (CA-50), Dan Goldman (NY-10), and Raja Krishnamoorthi (IL-08)

Problem:

Throughout the country, some Federal immigration enforcement and agents supporting their operations have been seen using excessive force towards citizens, immigrants and their families, protesters, and even journalists. Excessive force harms both the individuals subjected to force and the broader community. Immigration enforcement agents do not need dangerous equipment when performing basic duties, especially as the majority of operations target law-abiding immigrants.

All law enforcement officers should operate with transparency. When federal immigration enforcement wear face coverings without identification, it creates confusion in our communities and makes it challenging to identify personnel acting improperly. Body cameras are also not currently required for all personnel. A judge recently recognized the danger of improper use of force issued a temporary restraining order for federal agents in Chicago, limiting the use of equipment like tear gas and requiring all agents to wear body cameras.

Solution and Goals of the legislation:

- ➔ Create workable force standards that make communities safer while allowing Federal immigration enforcement to have required tools when targeting high-level threats.
- ➔ Require transparency in immigration enforcement to protect individuals and personnel acting properly with measures like standardized body and vehicle camera usage.

Endorsers:

- CHIRLA, Third Way, the Coalition on Human Needs, and Church World Service.

The Bill:

1. Prevents enforcement personnel from being equipped with tear gas, pepper balls, and flash bangs, wearing masks, and using non-identifying uniforms.*
 2. Aligns immigration enforcement with current DOJ standards on force, allowing it to be used only when “no reasonably effective, safe, and feasible alternative appears to exist.”
 3. Implements additional requirements that personnel exercise force “proportionally,” use de-escalation techniques, and minimize risk to third persons.*
 4. Requires mandatory use of body and vehicle cameras for immigration enforcement.
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5. Reinforces protections against force while engaging lawfully in protected First Amendment activities, such as protesting, reporting, and assembling.
 6. Supports local law enforcement by requiring that they are pre-notified of immigration operations in their jurisdiction and prohibiting Federal immigration enforcement from wearing uniforms with the word “police” to limit public confusion.
 7. Creates training requirements for de-escalation and abiding by constitutional protections.

*Limited exceptions are made for operations targeting national security and public safety threats, and assurance that Federal agents can protect themselves from immediate threats to their safety.