

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 13, 2026

The Honorable Kristi Noem
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

The Honorable Todd M. Lyons
Acting Director
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
Washington, D.C. 20024

Dear Secretary Noem and Acting Director Lyons:

We write to express our concerns and outrage over yet another incident under your leadership that threatens the safety of our communities and violates the constitutional rights of U.S. citizens. We received reports of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents allegedly racially profiling and physically assaulting two Latino employees of Los Angeles County's Department of Parks and Recreation while on duty at the Whittier Narrows Recreation Area in South El Monte.¹ This is yet another unsettling example of your agents using unnecessary force in our community spaces and the abhorrent use of racial profiling and discrimination. We demand that you immediately suspend warrantless stops and detention of individuals based on factors like apparent race/ethnicity, language, or occupation, and seek answers regarding your broader practices in Los Angeles County. In the wake of deadly incidents in Minnesota, we want to avoid the risk of any resident of Los Angeles County losing their life due to willful misconduct by DHS/ICE.

According to a statement by Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis on the incident at Whittier Narrows Reaction Area, the Los Angeles County Parks staff were wearing County uniforms, driving County vehicles, and identified themselves as County employees.² They were on duty as public servants when they were questioned about their citizenship status and harassed. This is unacceptable and reflective of a larger pattern by DHS/ICE agents using fear and intimidation to target hardworking Americans in communities of color.

Over the last several months, DHS/ICE has detained civilians at their place of employment, schools, bus stops, parks, car washes, parking lots all over Southern California from Torrance to Monrovia, Hollywood to South El Monte. Despite early claims of targeting criminals, unchecked "immigration enforcement" practices have affected children, legal residents, and U.S. citizens. Our residents are questioning their safety as DHS/ICE actions are not contained to where protests or immigration raids take place. They have become increasingly more violent and dangerous. Since October, there have been at least four shootings by DHS agents in and near Los Angeles County.³ Nationally, DHS has been involved in at least 13 shootings, including the two high profile deaths of U.S. citizens, Alex Pretti and Renee Good.⁴ DHS/ICE practices have also encouraged criminals to impersonate DHS/ICE personnel, taking advantage of your refusal to institute policies that would ensure agents identify themselves and show credentials. Criminals are copying your practices to sow further fear and steal from our communities.⁵

DHS/ICE operations are proving counterproductive not only from a safety standpoint, but also from an economic standpoint. The American Immigration Council has warned that this administration's immigration

¹ <https://www.sgvtribune.com/2026/01/14/federal-immigration-agents-stop-question-two-la-county-employees-at-whittier-narrows-park>

² <https://www.instagram.com/p/DTgnJyliOtd/?igsh=NTc4MTIwNjQ2YQ%3D%3D>

³ <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2026-01-21/shooting-incident-involving-border-patrol-agents-reported-in-willowbrook>

⁴ <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/ice-shootings-list-border-patrol-trump-immigration-operations-rcna254202>

⁵ <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2025-03-20/ice-impersonators-scams-target-immigrants-tips-to-protect-yourself>

crackdown would likely cost \$88 billion annually for a total of nearly \$1 trillion over the next decade.⁶ With DHS/ICE operations and abuse rising, our local businesses are suffering from decreased traffic and sales as customers stay home regardless of status, for fear of detention and mistreatment by DHS/ICE agents.⁷ Statewide, the Administration's goals would lower economic output by \$278 billion.⁸

To better understand DHS/ICE practices in Los Angeles County, we demand responses to the following questions as soon as possible, but no later than February 27, 2026.

1. What was the specific enforcement objective for your ICE agents to be at the Whittier Narrows Recreation Area and what was the legal basis for your agents stopping uniformed County employees and questioning their immigration status?
2. Were DHS/ICE agents purposely directed to Whittier Narrows Recreation Area and other County-owned land as a response to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approving a motion to draw up an ordinance that would bar ICE from County-owned land for immigration enforcement operations or staging of immigration raids on County-owned land by federal agents?⁹
3. Would DHS/ICE adhere to an understanding of the Tenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution that prevents the federal government from forcing state and local governments to comply with enforcement priorities and resources and respect any ban of ICE by the County of Los Angeles on County-owned or operated property?
4. When DHS/ICE carries out stops and detentions in Los Angeles County, how many are planned and coordinated and how many are ad hoc by agents deciding in the moment?
5. What is DHS/ICE doing to crack down on criminals impersonating DHS/ICE agents?
 - a. What actions have been taken by DHS/ICE to maximize the transparency of agents in the field that also minimize the possibility of criminals being able to mirror DHS/ICE tactics?
6. Specifically define who DHS/ICE is trying to keep safe when DHS/ICE claims these operations are necessary to make the "nation" safe.
 - a. Specify how actions by DHS/ICE agents against U.S. citizens keeps those same U.S. citizens safe.
 - b. Since January 20, 2025, how many U.S. citizens have been victims of DHS/ICE shootings, physical assaults, and detentions nationwide?
 - c. Since January 20, 2025, how many U.S. citizens have been victims of DHS/ICE shootings, physical assaults, and detentions in Los Angeles County?
7. What steps are DHS/ICE taking to prevent and minimize future incidents of violence against civilians?

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

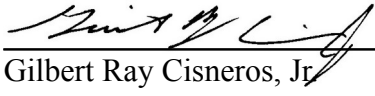
Sincerely,

⁶ <https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/report/mass-deportation/>

⁷ <https://thehill.com/homenews/senate/5426002-la-streets-businesses-empty-due-to-ice-raids-padilla/>

⁸ <https://www.bayareaeconomy.org/files/pdf/EconomicImpactOfMassDeportation-June2025.pdf>

⁹ <https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/211800.pdf>



Gilbert Ray Cisneros, Jr.
Member of Congress



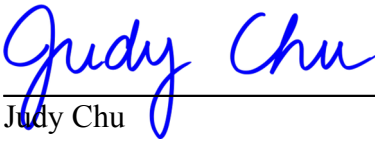
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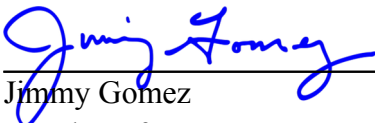
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