

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 20, 2026

The Honorable Mark Amodei
Chairman
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Homeland Security
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Henry Cuellar
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Homeland Security
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Amodei and Ranking Member Cuellar,

In a January 20, 2025, executive order entitled “Protecting the American People Against Invasion,” President Trump directed cabinet officials to prioritize illegal and unauthorized entry and unlawful and unauthorized presence over all other civil and criminal enforcement priorities.¹ In part, the order specifically directs the Secretary of Homeland Security to ensure the primary mission of Immigration and Customs Enforcement’s (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) division is to support civil immigration enforcement.

Subsequent public reporting has detailed the diversion of thousands of federal criminal law enforcement officers to fulfill this mandate, including over six thousand HSI personnel.² HSI describes their work as building “complex cases against the most sophisticated criminal networks that operate globally and pose the greatest threat to our security.”³ The division is responsible for investigating child exploitation, cybercrime, financial crime, human rights violations and war crimes, human trafficking, illicit technology procurement and sanctions violations, narcotics smuggling, terrorism and national security threats, transnational gangs, and weapons trafficking, among other priorities.

The diversion of thousands of agency personnel from their work supporting these core missions interferes with law enforcement operations and harms U.S. national security. As a consequence of the prioritization of civil immigration enforcement, counterterrorism, child exploitation, sanctions evasion, counterintelligence, human trafficking, and other critical investigations have been disrupted.⁴ Thousands of other Department personnel, including Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers and U.S. Border Patrol agents, have also been diverted from their work to conduct interior enforcement.

¹ <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/protecting-the-american-people-against-invasion/>

² <https://www.cato.org/blog/ice-has-diverted-over-25000-officers-their-jobs>

³ <https://www.ice.gov/hsi/investigate>

⁴ <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/11/16/us/politics/dhs-agents-reassigned.html>

As you prepare the Fiscal Year 2027 Homeland Security appropriations bill, we believe that the Department must return its focus to its mission, rather than diverting critical resources and personnel. We request the inclusion of the following bill language:

SEC. _____. (a) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act or any other Act, including prior Acts and laws other than appropriations Acts, shall be available for obligation or expenditure for the purpose of—

(1) Delegating, deputizing, or granting any authority to immigration officers and employees of U.S. Border Patrol to conduct interior immigration enforcement activities beyond 25 miles of any United States international land border or territorial sea: Provided, nothing in this section shall apply to existing border patrol checkpoints or new checkpoints supported with fiscal year 2025 funding;

(2) Utilizing employees of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Office of Field Operations, for the purposes of enforcing title 8 of United States Code outside of a port of entry; or

(3) Utilizing criminal investigators and employees of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Homeland Security Investigations, for the purposes of enforcing non-criminal law provisions and authorities under title 8 of United States Code.

(b) The prohibitions in subsection (a) shall not apply where such authority or utilization is based on—

(1) a lawful request made by an appropriate State, local, tribal, or territorial official to an immigration officer or employee of U.S. Border Patrol, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Office of Field Operations, or Homeland Security Investigations in accordance with State or local law, to assist in an emergency situation in which lives are in immediate or imminent danger; or

(2) the President's declaration of a major disaster under section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170).

It is imperative, particularly in a heightened threat environment with the ongoing war in Iran, that Department of Homeland Security personnel return to their core missions.

Sincerely,



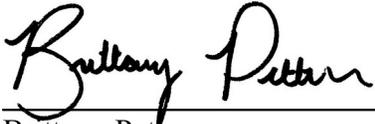
Jason Crow
Member of Congress



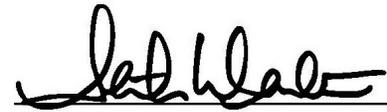
Teresa Leger Fernández
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