

ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

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February 4, 2025

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

The Honorable Caleb Vitello
Acting Director
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
500 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20024

Dear Secretary Noem and Acting Director Vitello:

We write to request more information about troubling reports that U.S. citizens have been detained during immigration enforcement operations. A recent *NBC News* article highlighted multiple incidents in which American citizens were wrongfully detained during immigration enforcement raids.¹ Additionally, *Telemundo Puerto Rico* recently reported on three U.S. citizens in Milwaukee—a toddler, his mother, and grandmother—who were detained and transported to an immigration detention center.²

These reports raise serious questions about the actions of Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) personnel when conducting immigration enforcement. Per ICE Policy No. 16001.2: Investigating the Potential U.S. Citizenship of Individuals Encountered by ICE, “[a]s a matter of law, ICE cannot assert its civil immigration enforcement authority to arrest and/or detain a U.S. citizen” and “ICE officers, agents, and attorneys should handle these matters with the utmost care and highest priority.”³ This principle is essential to prevent the escalating government assault on immigrants from becoming a steamroller that crushes the rights of American citizens.

In order to better understand the full scope of these alarming incidents and how DHS and ICE immigration enforcement activities may be infringing on the rights of U.S. citizens, please produce the following information as soon as possible, but no later than 5:00 p.m. on February 18, 2025:

¹ Suzanne Gamboa and Nicole Acevedo, *Trump Immigration Raids Snag U.S. Citizens, Including Native Americans, Raising Racial Profiling Fears*, NBC NEWS (Jan. 28, 2025), <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/latino/trump-immigration-raids-citizens-profiling-accusations-native-american-rcna189203>.

² Sean Craig, *U.S. Citizens Reportedly Detained After Being Overheard Speaking Spanish*, DAILY BEAST (Jan. 29, 2025), <https://www.thedailybeast.com/us-citizens-reportedly-detained-after-being-overheard-speaking-spanish/>.

³ IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT, *Policy No. 16001.2: Investigating the Potential U.S. Citizenship of Individuals Encountered by ICE* (Nov. 10, 2015), <https://www.ice.gov/sites/default/files/documents/Document/2017/16001.2.pdf>.

1. A list of each incident where a U.S. citizen was detained during immigration enforcement activities since January 20, 2025, including:
 - a. The total number of U.S. citizens detained;
 - b. The name of each U.S. citizen detained;
 - c. The age of each U.S. citizen detained;
 - d. The location where the U.S. citizen was detained;
 - e. The length of time the U.S. citizen was detained;
 - f. The criminal record, if any, of each individual detained; and
 - g. The name of each agency that was involved in the immigration enforcement operation.

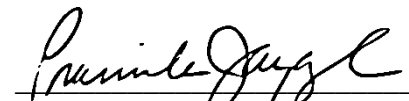
2. Is ICE Policy No. 16001.2: Investigating the Potential U.S. Citizenship of Individuals Encountered by ICE, still in effect?
 - a. If not, what policies and procedures does ICE currently have in place to prevent the wrongful detention of U.S. citizens during immigration enforcement activities?
 - b. Have there been any changes or updates to these policies and procedures in response to recent incidents?

Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter.

Very truly yours,



Jamie Raskin
Ranking Member



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

cc: The Honorable Jim Jordan, Chairman
House Committee on the Judiciary

The Honorable Tom McClintock, Chairman
Subcommittee on Immigration Integrity, Security and Enforcement