

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 22, 2017

The Honorable John F. Kelly  
Secretary of Homeland Security  
Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Kelly:

Thank you for meeting with members of the Democratic Caucus on March 17 to address our concerns regarding the implementation of President Donald Trump's enforcement efforts.

At the meeting, we raised concerns about legal and civil rights violations as the agency implements the Trump Administration's far broader interior and immigration enforcement orders. While we recognize that you call for lawful execution of these executive orders, ensuring that civil liberties are upheld requires constant vigilance and accountability. We must ensure that there are no instances of racial profiling, violations to due process, or tolerance of discrimination based on race, ethnicity or national origin. You responded to these concerns by stating that U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents respect individuals' legal and civil rights and assured members of Congress that everything your agency does is in accordance with the law.

However, we recognize that overseeing 22,922 Customs and Border Patrol agents and nearly 19,000 ICE agents can be challenging. This oversight will be made more difficult with President Trump's orders to hire an additional 5,000 border patrol agents and 10,000 additional ICE agents and officers.

Proper oversight of law enforcement personnel not only protects individuals, but officers as well. One way to ensure that both agency personnel and those targeted and detained by agents are held accountable is to provide law enforcement personnel with body cameras.

For years now, Americans have debated whether police officers should be required to wear body cameras. The reality is that Americans overwhelmingly support mandating officers wear the technology. Of the 68 "major city" departments in the United States, 43 now have body worn camera programs with policies in place. Additionally, a recent study found that law enforcement officers' use of body-worn cameras results in 93 percent fewer complaints from the public and increased accountability on both sides, thereby helping to quell potentially volatile situations. The same should be applied to ICE and CBP agents and officers.

In our meeting, you yourself stated that you are not opposed to requiring your agents to wear body cameras as long as the funding is available.

Given that President Trump's budget calls for \$44.1 billion in net discretionary authority for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), a \$2.8 billion increase in funding, we are calling on you to commit to allocating some of these funds to provide ICE and CBP agents with body cameras. Even without this additional funding, DHS currently has a budget of \$40.96 billion in net discretionary authority. It is within your authority to dedicate some of these resources to a body camera program.

We believe the funding is there.

There are tremendous safety and accountability benefits to having video records of law enforcement activity – both for the officers and for the public. We hope you will commit to taking concrete steps that protect the civil rights of undocumented immigrants by supporting body cameras for your agents and officers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "JOAQUIN CASTRO". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping "J" and a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Rep. Joaquin Castro  
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "ADRIANO ESPAILLAT". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping "A" and a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Rep. Adriano Espaillat  
Member of Congress