

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 4, 2019

The Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard
Chairwoman
Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland
Security
2002 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chuck Fleischmann
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland
Security
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Roybal-Allard and Ranking Member Fleischmann:

As you prepare the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Appropriations bill, we respectfully request that you provide \$10 million for the implementation of body-worn cameras for border agents and include language requiring Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to provide an update to Congress on the status of its body-worn camera pilot.

Our nation spends \$19 billion a year on border security and immigration enforcement, more than we spend on all other federal law enforcement activities combined. As government spending for these activities continues, we need to install the correct oversight mechanisms to preserve the department's integrity. Numerous accounts detailing unacceptable use of force and violations of Americans' and others' civil liberties highlight the need for body-worn cameras, and independent studies have shown that Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and ICE fail to take any action on the majority of fully-processed complaints. We believe current management of our border security apparatus needs increased review, transparency and accountability.

In order to increase accountability and assure safety for officers and the public, it is necessary for law enforcement agencies to adopt body-worn cameras, governed by a policy that protects privacy interests and ensures an effective, open review of the footage where appropriate. Incorporating body-worn cameras as an everyday part of 21st-century policing has gained significant momentum in recent years as dozens of major city and state law enforcement agencies around the country have already successfully deployed body-worn cameras throughout their departments. Furthermore, the footage taken on body-worn cameras have shown to be particularly useful for informing officer training and enhancing best practices. CBP has completed a feasibility study as well as a pilot, the results of which show Border Patrol agents and the public would benefit from implementation of body-worn cameras. That is why we are requesting the inclusion \$10 million for the procurement of body-worn cameras and docking systems for CBP's Fiscal Year 2020 appropriations. This would fund the purchase of 10,000 cameras, roughly has as many as there are CBP border agents.

Furthermore, ICE operations also require the protection and transparency provided through the use of body-worn cameras. The current administration's directives that significantly expand ICE's immigration enforcement authorities and require the agency to hire more officers and agents reinforce the need for accountability. We must ensure that ICE establishes policies, procedures, and best practices for the use of body-worn cameras. We appreciate your attention to

this critical issue earlier this year by including language directing ICE to begin its body-worn camera pilot in the Joint Explanatory Statement accompanying the Conference Report for the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2019. We want to ensure that the agency remains on track, which is why we are requesting that the committee include language in its Fiscal Year 2020 report requesting an update on the status of the pilot within 60 days of enactment and a defined timeline for completion. We believe this aggressive oversight will ensure expeditious completion of the pilot and provide the information Congress needs in order to equip ICE officers with the tools we need to protect individuals' civil liberties.

Again, we thank you for your prior support, which has been critical for moving this effort forward. We ask for your continued support by including \$10 million dollars for the procurement of body-worn cameras for CBP border agents and by including report language requiring an update and completion timeline of ICE's body-worn camera pilot. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



ADRIANO ESPAILLAT
Member of Congress



ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON
Member of Congress



JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY
Member of Congress



EARL BLUMENAUER
Member of Congress



RAUL M. GRIJALVA
Member of Congress



TONY CÁRDENAS
Member of Congress



ILHAN OMAR
Member of Congress



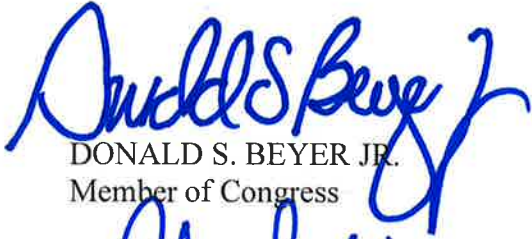
ALBIO SIRES
Member of Congress



STEVE COHEN
Member of Congress




NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ
Member of Congress




DONALD S. BEYER JR.
Member of Congress



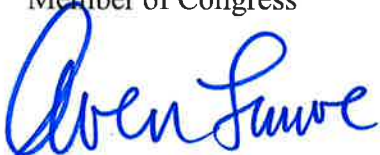
ALEXANDRIA OCASIO-CORTEZ
Member of Congress



ADAM SMITH
Member of Congress



RUBEN GALLEGO
Member of Congress



GWEN MOORE
Member of Congress



NANETTE DIAZ BARRAGÁN
Member of Congress




DEBBIE MUCARSEL-POWELL
Member of Congress



ALAN LOWENTHAL
Member of Congress



DEB HAALAND
Member of Congress



DARREN SOTO
Member of Congress




ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT
Member of Congress



JOHN YARMUTH
Member of Congress



JESÚS G. "CHUY" GARCÍA
Member of Congress



AYANNA PRESSLEY
Member of Congress

CBP and ICE Body Cameras appropriations request

April 4, 2019

Page 4

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Donna E. Shalala". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

DONNA E. SHALALA

Member of Congress