



September 25, 2025

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Susan Collins
Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Patty Murray
Vice Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee

Dear Members of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees:

On behalf of the undersigned Latino civil rights and advocacy organizations, we urge you to support amendments to the upcoming appropriations bills that safeguard the constitutional and statutory rights of all Americans, including the more than 60 million Latinos living in the United States. We specifically urge the Senate Appropriations Committee to adopt these amendments in its forthcoming bill, and we call on both the House and Senate to ensure these reforms are carried into any final conference agreement.

The administration's implementation of indiscriminate mass deportation tears families apart, weakens the economy and undermines national security. By relying on racial profiling and heavy-handed raids, it casts suspicion on entire communities, traumatizes families and has led to the wrongful detention of U.S. citizens and lawful residents. Immigration enforcement is being increasingly carried out by masked agents using violent tactics without regard for due process.

The administration's harsh approach is also shifting public opinion. A recent poll found a majority of Americans believe President Trump has gone too far in deporting undocumented immigrants, and roughly eight in ten Hispanic voters support focusing removals on dangerous criminals, rather than long-residing undocumented immigrants without criminal records.

Despite this clear public opposition, the administration has escalated enforcement in increasingly unlawful ways. Congress has long drawn a bright line against military involvement in domestic law enforcement. Yet military personnel and resources have recently been diverted to support immigration enforcement, including National Guard and Marine deployments in Los Angeles, where these federal troops operated alongside Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to guard facilities, control crowds and manage perimeters. In *Newsom v. Trump*, a federal court concluded that this deployment violated the Posse Comitatus Act. Such misuse of defense resources and personnel threatens civil liberties and violates federal law by undermining the long-standing bar on use of the military to police our communities.

As you consider appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Department of Justice, we urge you to use the constitutional authority given to Congress to hold the administration accountable and ensure that our immigration policies have a balanced approach that is firm, fair and free of cruelty.

Adoption of the following amendments would go a long way to restore accountability, due process and oversight in immigration enforcement, detention and removals. These steps include:

- **Protect citizens from abuse.** Reform qualified immunity to allow lawful residents and U.S. citizens to seek damages for abuse.
- **Preventing the deportation of children.** Require parental consent and reporting before removing U.S. citizens or Legal Permanent Resident (LPR) children without parent consent and reporting.
- **Recognition of sensitive locations.** Codify protected locations guidance in place for decades limiting enforcement at schools, places of worship and medical facilities, with public disclosure.
- **Improvement in transparency.** Ban mask use by federal agents (except undercover work) and require body cameras with footage accessible to the public.
- **Protect personal privacy and ban data betrayal.** Prevent DHS from using personal data or other information collected by state, local and federal governments for administrative purposes including tax collection, health and nutrition for immigration enforcement.
- **Prohibit use of DoD resources for immigration enforcement.** Prohibit the use of appropriated funds to provide Department of Defense equipment, surveillance technology, bases, facilities, personnel, logistics or intelligence support to DHS or any law enforcement agency for immigration enforcement activities.

- **Role of state and local law enforcement:** Mandate reporting on the activities of the rising number of 287(g) agreements, including number of operations they are engaged in, arrests made in 287(g) jurisdictions and publication of allegations of misconduct by 287(g) program participants.
- **Ensure due process.** Provide due process for those losing lawful status and prohibit blanket denials of asylum.
- **Access to counsel/family.** Codify access to counsel for detained individuals; mandate meaningful access to phone calls to family members and legal counsel.
- **Deferred action.** Allow deferred action for individuals awaiting visa availability or in compelling humanitarian cases.
- **Preservation of congressional oversight.** Guarantee unrestricted congressional access to detention facilities.
- **Restore and strengthen DHS oversight bodies.** Include statutory language that strengthens and supports DHS oversight bodies that have been weakened by funding and staff cuts.
- **Retention of quality standards in ICE recruitment and training.** Reinstate minimum age requirements and background checks for ICE hires; require six-month training courses for ICE officers that preserve both foreign language and Know Your Rights training.
- **Ensure procurement integrity.** Enforce federal contracting standards to prevent fraud and abuse; audit local law enforcement agencies that receive DHS funding and new contracts for private companies constructing new detention facilities.

These reforms do not impede removal of those who commit serious crimes or pose security threats, which we support, but they do ensure that enforcement upholds constitutional rights and due process.

[Polling](#) consistently shows Latino voters — and majorities across parties — favor solutions that include a path to citizenship for long-term residents, not mass deportation. UnidosUS has long worked with both parties on bipartisan immigration reforms and remains committed to achieving lasting solutions.

Accordingly, we ask you to condition appropriations support on these amendments. We urge the Senate to take the lead in adopting them, and both chambers to ensure they are preserved in conference. By doing so, Congress can uphold the Constitution, protect families and restore accountability to our immigration system. For questions, please contact Susie Feliz, senior advisor, at sfeliz@unidosus.org.

Sincerely,

UnidosUS

Aquí: The Accountability Movement

Hispanic Federation

Latino Victory Project

LatinoJustice PRLDEF

League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)

Mi Familia Vota

United Farm Workers