

August 13, 2026

Dear Members of Congress:

UnidosUS and more than 115 community-based organizations from our nationwide Affiliate network, serving Latino and immigrant families across the country, write to demand that Congress immediately exercise its constitutional oversight duty over Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) following yet another wave of fatal shootings during traffic stops.

In recent weeks, Lorenzo Salgado Araujo, a 52-year-old father, husband, and small business owner in Houston, was shot and killed by an ICE agent as he drove his construction crew to a job site. Days later, Johan Sebastián Durán Guerrero, a 25-year-old Colombian father, was killed by an ICE agent while driving near his family's apartment in Biddeford, Maine. DHS's own Secretary later confirmed he was not even the person agents were looking for, and the officer involved, identified by relatives and multiple news outlets, was a newly sworn-in recruit with a documented history of violent behavior that surfaced only after the shooting - a stark sign of how recklessly ICE's hiring surge has been conducted.

In both cases, agents were pursuing someone else entirely, driving unmarked cars, and did not wear body cameras. These deaths fit an unmistakable, foreseeable pattern of escalating violence that has continued unchecked because Congress has failed to hold these agencies accountable.

A Pattern Congress Cannot Ignore

These are not isolated cases. Ruben Ray Martinez, a 23-year-old U.S. citizen, was [shot and killed](#) in South Padre Island, Texas, in March 2025; a grand jury later declined to bring charges despite body camera footage that contradicted ICE's narrative. Six months later, Silverio Villegas González was killed during a traffic stop in Franklin Park, Illinois, where a state commission has [found reasonable cause to believe he was shot without justification](#). In November 2025, Marimar Martinez was shot five times in Chicago and survived; the government later [dropped every charge against her, with prejudice](#). Two months later, in January 2026, [Renee Good](#) and [Alex Pretti](#) were killed in Minneapolis. Additionally, [more than 50 people](#) have died in ICE detention under the current administration, and [17 people](#) died in CBP detention in 2025 alone. At least one of those deaths was [ruled a homicide](#).

While DHS briefly [ordered a nationwide halt to most vehicle pursuits and traffic stops](#) in the wake of the recent shootings, President Trump quickly reversed course and [ordered](#)

[the stops to continue](#). That reversal underscores that meaningful accountability will not come from within DHS. Congress must exercise its constitutional oversight authority.

Rather than cooperating, federal authorities have repeatedly obstructed accountability for the families and communities harmed by these killings. In Houston, local officials have said federal investigators [shut them out](#) of the investigative process following Mr. Salgado Araujo's death. Similar barriers have emerged elsewhere: in Minnesota, state and county prosecutors [sued the federal government](#) after being denied evidence in the killings of Renee Good and Alex Pretti, and in Illinois, local officials have said they still have [not received results](#) of the federal review into the shooting of Silverio Villegas González. Families who have lost loved ones deserve answers, transparency, and accountability. Congress must not allow DHS to obstruct the very processes needed to deliver justice.

With increasing frequency, immigration agents regularly conduct violent, plainclothes operations with no clear identification visible, no body-worn cameras, and no meaningful accountability. As a result, entire communities, regardless of immigration status, now live with the fear that a routine drive to work, school, or home could end in tragedy.

What Congress Must Do

Congress has given ICE and CBP staggering increases in funding while providing no corresponding oversight or guardrails and failing to provide a pathway to citizenship for the millions of longtime residents and workers who remain trapped in a broken immigration system. That imbalance must end. Congress must act to prevent further loss of life, deliver justice to the families already harmed, and advance permanent legalization.

We call on you to:

1. **Demand full, independent, and transparent investigations** into the deaths of Lorenzo Salgado Araujo, Johan Sebastián Durán Guerrero, and others killed by ICE and CBP, conducted independently of DHS and free from federal interference with state and local investigators, with public release of all evidence, including video, radio communications, and witness statements.
2. **Enact long-overdue guardrails**, including mandatory body-worn cameras with enforceable consequences for noncompliance; visible identification for officers and their vehicles; protection of sensitive locations, including schools, places of worship, and hospitals; an end to roving, unmarked patrols; and a prohibition on warrantless searches of homes and vehicles.
3. **Restore meaningful congressional oversight** of ICE and CBP, including regular hearings, unannounced facility inspections, and unobstructed access for members and staff to investigate enforcement actions and detention conditions.

4. **Mandate rigorous hiring and vetting standards**, background checks, psychological screening, and minimum training, before any recruit is deployed.
5. **Establish independent oversight of immigration detention facilities**, conditions of confinement, and deaths in detention, and restore internal watchdog offices.
6. **Restrict appropriations** for ICE and CBP pending these reforms.
7. **Advance permanent legalization** for the millions of longtime residents and workers, like the families of Mr. Salgado Araujo and Mr. Durán Guerrero, left exposed by a broken system. Legalization and meaningful enforcement guardrails must go hand in hand. Congress cannot continue expanding immigration enforcement while leaving millions of people who have lived, worked, raised families, and contributed to this country for decades in perpetual legal limbo.

Mr. Salgado Araujo spent three decades building a life and a business in Houston, raising three sons who became a teacher, an engineer, and an engineering student. Mr. Durán Guerrero was a young father building a life with his partner and three-year-old daughter. They deserved to grow old. Their families deserve the truth.

Congress has waited too long, and our community has buried too many. We urge you to demand accountability, enact real guardrails on ICE and CBP, and finally deliver permanent legalization for the millions of long-term undocumented residents and their families who are part of our communities.

Respectfully,

UnidosUS
UnidosUS Affiliates

Academias La Paz
Acero Schools
Adelante Mujeres
Alivio Medical Center, Inc.
Amber Charter Schools
Association House of Chicago
Avenida Guadalupe Association
Ayuda
Bienestar
Bienestar Human Services
Brighton Park Neighborhood Council
Building Skills Partnership

Camino Nuevo Charter Academy
Canal Alliance
Caridad Center Inc.
Casa Central Social Services Corporation
Center for Employment Training
Central American Resource Center
Centro Cultural de Washington County
Centro de Ayuda para los Hispanos, Inc
Centro Hispano
Centro Hispano de East Tennessee
Centro Legal de la Raza
Centro Romero
Chica Project
Chicano Federation
Ciudad Nueva
CLUES
Colorado Latino Leadership, Advocacy & Research Organization (CLLARO)
Community Council of Idaho
Conexion Americas
COPAL
Corporación Desarrollo Económico, Vivienda y Salud (CODEVYS)
Dominico-American Society of Queens
East Boston Community Council
Eastmont Community Center
El Centro
El Centro de Servicios Sociales
El Centro del Pueblo
El Centro Hispano
El Concilio California
Empowering Latino Futures
Enlace Chicago
Erie Neighborhood House
Esperanza Academy Charter School
Esperanza Cyber Charter School
Esperanza Health Centers
Ohio Hispanic Coalition
Gads Hill Center
Haven Services
Hispanic and Immigrant Center of Alabama
Hispanic Community Services, Inc.
Hispanic Unity of Florida

HOLA Ohio
Ibero-American Action League Inc.
Illinois Migrant Council
Inclusive Action for the City
KIPP SoCal Public Schools
La Casa Norte
La Clinica de La Raza
La Esperanza, Inc.
La Fuerza Unida, Inc.
La Paz Chattanooga
La Plaza de Encuentro Gathering Place
La Raza Community Resource Center
La Union del Pueblo Entero (LUPE)
Latin American Community Center
Latin American Economic Development Association, Inc.
Latino Alzheimer's and Memory Disorders Alliance
Latino Community Center
Latino Community Development Agency Inc.
Latino Leadership, Inc.
Latino Memphis
Latino Network
Latino U College Access
Lawrence CommunityWorks
Lifeline Community Services
LULAC-IL Council #5296
MAAC
Mattie Rhodes Center
Mississippi Immigrants Rights Alliance (MIRA)
Montebello Housing Development Corporation
Mujeres Latinas en Accion
Multicultural Family Center
National Parents Union
Neighborworks Sacramento
NEWSED Community Development Corporation
Northwest Center
Northwest Side Community Development Corporation
One Stop Career Center of PR Inc
Orange County Community Housing Corporation
Para Los Niños
PODER
Project BRAVO

Promise Arizona
PUENTE Learning Center
Puerto Rican Association for Human Development, Inc.
Sacred Heart Center
Salvadoran American Leadership and Education Fund
Sea Mar Community Health Centers
Semillas del Pueblo
Sociedad Latina
Southwest Economic Solutions DBA MiSide Wealth
Spanish Speaking Citizens' Foundation
St Nicks Alliance
Su Casa Indiana
Synergy Academies
Tec Centro Workforce Network
The Health Collaborative
The Resurrection Project
The Wall Las Memorias
The Women's Building
UnidosNow
Valere Public Schools, Inc.
Valle del Sol, Inc.
Valley Initiative for Development and Advancement (VIDA)