

**Subject:** History Has Its Eyes on You – Rein in ICE Now

Dear **Representative/Senator [Last Name]**,

I am writing as your constituent to say, as plainly as possible: history has its eyes on you. American citizens and non-citizens alike have been abused, traumatized, and even killed in ICE custody. This is happening under the authority and funding that Congress continues to provide. You cannot look away and still claim to stand for law, order, or basic human decency.

ICE is not simply “enforcing the law.” It has operated with a culture of impunity: wrongful detention of U.S. citizens, medical neglect, deaths in custody, retaliation against whistleblowers and detainees, and disturbing patterns of cruelty. When the federal government cages people in dangerous, abusive conditions and some of them die, that is not “border security.” That is a fundamental moral failure of the state.

You have a choice in the upcoming DHS appropriations vote. Either you use the power of the purse to rein this in, or you become complicit in it.

I am calling on you to:

- **Refuse any “blank check” for ICE.**  
Do not support a DHS bill that increases ICE enforcement or detention funding, expands detention beds, or gives ICE broad flexibility to move money around in the dark.
- **Fence every dollar behind strict guardrails.**  
Demand that ICE funding be conditioned on enforceable standards for medical care, use of force, access to counsel, and protection from sexual abuse, with public, facility-by-facility reporting and real consequences for violations.
- **Protect American citizens and uphold the Constitution.**  
Insist on mandatory reporting of every case where a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident is detained by ICE, how long they were held, and what happened to them. When the government locks up its own citizens without due process and people die in its custody, that is not “toughness.” It is unconstitutional and un-American.
- **Guarantee real oversight, not theater.**  
Support unannounced congressional access to facilities, truly independent inspections with public reports, and automatic referral of deaths, serious injuries, and credible abuse allegations to independent investigators.

This is not a partisan question. It is a moral and constitutional one. No member of Congress gets to hide behind talking points about “security” while Americans die in cages funded by their votes. The record will be clear: either you took real steps to rein in this agency, or you did not.

Decades from now, people will look back at this period and ask who had the courage to say that what our government was doing in our name was wrong—and who kept quiet. You cannot control everything, but you can control your own vote. You can refuse to sign off on another dollar for abuse without strict, enforceable limits.

History has its eyes on you. Do the right thing.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]