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Congress of the United States House of Representatives

Michael E. Capuano

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August 14, 2018

The Hon. Kirstjen Nielsen, Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
3801 Nebraska Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20393

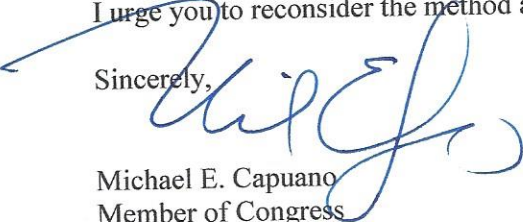
Dear Madame Secretary:

I write to express my grave concern about reports that two agencies within the Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) and Immigration and Customs and Enforcement (ICE) have concerted efforts to apprehend and detain immigrants seeking lawfully to adjust their status. It is particularly distressing to learn that, in several cases in Massachusetts, adjustment was sought on the basis of approved I-130, *Petition for Alien Relative* applications, and those taken into custody were the spouses and parents of United States citizens, often, in fact, the mothers of young children. The *Boston Globe* has published emails that indicate USCIS interviews were scheduled to avoid triggering "negative media interests," such as have, with a free press, predictably occurred.

I understand that the American Civil Liberties Union has taken legal action with regard to these alleged practices, and I understand that you would not wish to comment on ongoing litigation. That said, I respectfully urge that you direct all agencies of DHS to use prudence and restraint in the allocation of limited law enforcement resources. The tension between the missions of USCIS and ICE will inevitably call into question the wisdom of the creation of the Department of Homeland Security. I believe its problems lie not with its personnel, but with the policies it must now enforce. I believe that law must be tempered with mercy, and that resources in any public endeavor must be expended with prudence in the pursuit of reasonable goals. Separating families, breaking the hearts of parents and terrorizing children, cannot be the goal of any American administration.

I urge you to reconsider the method and purpose of enforcement in the agencies for which you are responsible.

Sincerely,


Michael E. Capuano
Member of Congress

Cc: L. Francis Cissna, Director, USCIS
Mike McCleary, Field Office Director, Boston
Denis Riordan, District Director, Boston
Ronald D. Vitiello, Acting Director, ICE
Rebecca Adducci, Interim Field Director, ICE, Burlington
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