



August 11, 2025

The Honorable Kristi Noem
Secretary
Department of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King Jr Ave SE
Washington, DC 20528

Mr. Todd Lyons
Acting Director
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
500 12th St SW
Washington, DC 20536

Ms. Jennifer M. Fenton
Associate Director
Office of Professional Responsibility
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
500 12th St SW
Washington, DC 20536

Mr. Thomas Homan
Executive Associate Director of Enforcement
and Removal Operations
White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Secretary Noem, Mr. Lyons, Ms. Fenton, and Mr. Homan:

As members of the Democratic Women's Caucus, we write with grave concern regarding the violent attacks on women by masked U.S. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers and those who are using this moment to impersonate immigration enforcement officers.¹ All our lives, we are taught to fear masked men in unmarked vehicles. We learn we should run from such men to avoid being kidnapped, sexually assaulted, or killed. Yet, ICE is increasingly conducting raids and arrests in masks, plain-clothes, without visible identification or badges, using unmarked vehicles – tactics that cause confusion, terror, and mistrust among the public. These tactics invited perpetrators of violence against women to take advantage of the chaos by impersonating masked ICE agents in order to target and sexually assault women.² This cannot continue and must be addressed immediately. The Democratic Women's Caucus is committed to defending the rights of all women and girls to live in safety. We call on the Department to recognize this pervasive issue and to take immediate action. **We demand that ICE agents visibly and clearly identify themselves when conducting immigration enforcement activities to stop enabling impersonators who leverage women's uncertainty and fear of immigration consequences to rape, harass, and abuse them.**

1 Garcia, Karen. (2025, March 20). *ICE impersonators and other scammers are on the rise: How to protect yourself*. *Los Angeles Times*. <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2025-03-20/ice-impersonators-scams-target-immigrants-tips-to-protect-yourself>

2 Blando, Ava, & Jacques, Simone. (2025, July 10). *Men are impersonating ICE agents to attack immigrant women. MAGA emboldened them*. *Ms. Magazine*. <https://msmagazine.com/2025/07/10/men-impersonating-ice-agents-immigration-customs-attack-women-maga-trump/>

Reports of ICE impersonators assaulting women started shortly after President Trump's inauguration, in sync with the administration directing ICE to conduct raids in plain-clothes and unmarked vans.³ At the end of January, a North Carolina man threatened to deport a woman if she did not have sex with him, showing her a fake business card.⁴ In February, a New York man pretended to be an ICE agent, told a woman he needed to speak with her, then tried to sexually assault her.⁵ In June, a Maryland man flashed a fake badge, threatened to deport a woman if she did not enter his car, where he then sexually assaulted her. Such horrifying and gut-wrenching stories demonstrate the rise in attacks against women by ICE impersonators,⁶ and these are just the incidents we know about. Without a doubt, these crimes against women have been enabled by the administration's harsh immigration enforcement tactics and consistent violations of due process. For example, Rümeysa Öztürk, a Tufts University graduate student, was accosted and detained by more than five plain-clothes, masked ICE agents and placed into an unmarked vehicle in broad daylight. This horrifying scene appeared more like a kidnapping than an arrest by legitimate law enforcement.⁷ To keep women safe, we must effectively address the ability of perpetrators to so easily impersonate an ICE agent.

Experts note that immigration enforcement officers hiding their identities leads to public mistrust and enables imposters to carry out their schemes given the lack of uniformity in their masking practices.⁸ The lack of clear uniformity also contributes to the accessibility of counterfeit ICE gear, which is far too easy to purchase. Fake ICE jackets became a 'best seller' on Amazon in February of this year.⁹ Without outlined protocols and specific regulations, anyone can now throw on a fake ICE jacket, put on a mask, and claim to be an ICE agent to deceive and attack women. Whereas, local police officers are required to have distinguishable forms of identification, including official badges and photo identification, that help individuals determine their legitimacy.¹⁰ ICE agents should not be excluded from such policies especially when it is clear that women's safety and law enforcement legitimacy are at stake.

3 WRAL via CNN Newsource. (2025, January 29). *Man accused of impersonating ICE officer, sexually assaulting woman he threatened to deport*. Live5News. <https://www.live5news.com/2025/01/29/man-accused-impersonating-ice-officer-sexually-assaulting-woman-he-threatened-deport/>

4 WRAL via CNN Newsource. (2025, January 29). *Man accused of impersonating ICE officer, sexually assaulting woman he threatened to deport*. Live5News. <https://www.live5news.com/2025/01/29/man-accused-impersonating-ice-officer-sexually-assaulting-woman-he-threatened-deport/>

5 Katersky, Aaron. (2025, February 12). *Attempted rapist told victim he was an ICE agent: Police sources*. ABC News. <https://abcnews.go.com/US/attempted-rape-told-victim-ice-agent-police-sources/story?id=118741709>

6 Garcia, Karen. (2025, March 20). *ICE impersonators and other scammers are on the rise: How to protect yourself*. Los Angeles Times. <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2025-03-20/ice-impersonators-scams-target-immigrants-tips-to-protect-yourself>

7 Bethune, Naomi. (2025, June 24). *ICE impersonations proliferate amid the agency's undercover tactics*. The American Prospect. <https://prospect.org/justice/2025-06-24-ice-impersonations-proliferate-agencys-undercover-tactics>

8 Olivares, José. (2025, June 25). *The alarming rise of US officers hiding behind masks: 'A police state.'* Immigration officers wearing masks during arrests fuel public fear and accusations of impersonation. The Guardian. <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/jun/25/immigration-officers-wearing-masks>

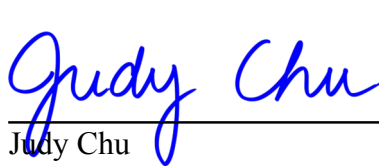
9 Rahman, Billal. (2025, February). *ICE immigration jacket becomes "best seller" on Amazon*. Newsweek. <https://www.newsweek.com/ice-immigration-jacket-best-seller-amazon-2035114>

10 Bologna, Caroline. (2025, June 16). *How to spot a fake police officer*. HuffPost. https://www.huffpost.com/entry/how-to-spot-fake-police-officer_1685046ffe4b043336889b1c

Members from both chambers introduced bills that would break this disturbing cycle and end the horrific abuse of these disturbing practices. Now, the administration must take action. We call on the Department to implement policies and protocols that are responsive to these serious concerns about women's safety and law enforcement integrity to protect women from further harm. Your current practices leave women vulnerable to life-altering violence. It's past time to act. Just like local police officers, ICE agents must be required to wear visible and clear identification to ensure their safety, better protect women, and deter impersonators. Finally, impersonators must be held accountable to the fullest extent of the law and this violence must be denounced by this administration.

We request a response that includes the administration's plan to effectively address this issue and better protect women from harm by those that impersonate ICE as a tool of manipulation, intimidation, and coercion. For further correspondence, please email Julia Bartusek, the Executive Director of the Democratic Women's Caucus at Julia.Bartusek@mail.house.gov.

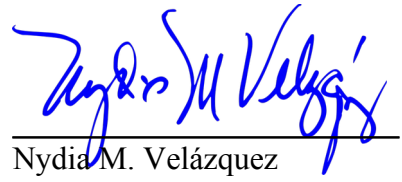
Sincerely,



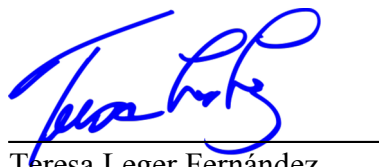
Judy Chu
Co-Chair
Reproductive Health Care
Task Force
Democratic Women's Caucus



Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress



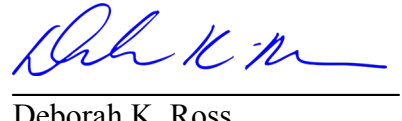
Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



Teresa Leger Fernández
Chair
Democratic Women's Caucus



Sydney Kamlager-Dove
Co-Chair
Policy Task Force
Democratic Women's Caucus



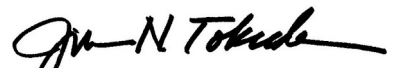
Deborah K. Ross
Co-Chair
Policy Task Force
Democratic Women's Caucus



Jasmine Crockett
Co-Chair
Communications Task Force
Democratic Women's Caucus



Pramila Jayapal
Congressional Asian Pacific
American Caucus Liaison
Democratic Women's Caucus



JM Tokuda
Progressive Caucus Liaison
Democratic Women's Caucus

Nikema Williams
Chief Whip
Democratic Women's Caucus

Julie Johnson
Equality Caucus Liaison
Democratic Women's Caucus

Andrea Salinas
Congressional Hispanic
Caucus Liaison
Democratic Women's Caucus

LaMonica McIver
New Member Liaison
Democratic Women's Caucus

Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick
Chair
Global Women's Issues Task
Force
Democratic Women's Caucus

Melanie Stansbury
Co-Chair
Member Services Task Force
Democratic Women's Caucus

Kelly Morrison
Co-Chair
Reproductive Health Care
Task Force
Democratic Women's Caucus

Julia Brownley
Member of Congress

Gwen S. Moore
Member of Congress

Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress

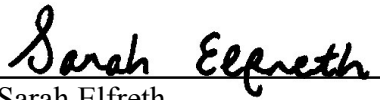
Maxine Dexter
Member of Congress

Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress

Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress

Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress

Val Hoyle
Member of Congress



Sarah Elfreth
Member of Congress



Brittany Pettersen
Member of Congress



Delia C. Ramirez
Member of Congress



Luz M. Rivas
Member of Congress



Yassamin Ansari
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



Valerie P. Foushee
Member of Congress



Laura Friedman
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress