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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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MODERNIZATION AND INNOVATION, RANKING MEMBER

Acting Director Todd Lyons
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
500 12th Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20536

June 12, 2025

Dear Acting Director Lyons:

I am writing to raise serious concerns regarding the conduct of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) personnel during a peaceful Congressional delegation oversight visit to the Roybal Federal Building in Los Angeles on June 7, 2025.

This visit was organized to observe and bear witness to the conditions and treatment of individuals in federal immigration custody at the Roybal Federal Building. The visit was prompted by reports of violent encounters involving ICE agents and unidentified bystanders during raids at multiple locations in Los Angeles County, as well as reports of dangerous overcrowding at the facility. Four Members of Congress, including myself, arrived at the Roybal Federal Building on Saturday, June 7th at 8:30 am and requested an invitation to enter and be given a briefing. At no point did we request entry for anyone other than Members, and we clearly displayed our Congressional Member identification.

Rather than accommodating the request, as required under law, we were denied access to the facility under a false pretext. Contrary to ICE's public claim that over 1,000 protesters were present, this was a small, peaceful delegation. Your agency's false characterization is not only inaccurate, but appears designed to justify the dangerous and unjustified deployment of chemical agents against elected officials and other non-violent participants. We were a delegation of approximately fifteen individuals, including Members of Congress, legal counsel, congressional staff, media, and representatives from the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA) and the Central American Resource Center (CARECEN). This false characterization appears designed to justify the dangerous and unjustified deployment of chemical agents—multiple times.

As a result of ICE's actions, I was admitted to the Emergency Room for respiratory treatment, observation, and now must take medication. Furthermore, while we were there, family members arrived to drop off medication for detained individuals. Because there was no one available to assist them, our staff had to intervene and help them locate the appropriate drop-off site.

Equally troubling is the unlawful denial of access to the facility by ICE personnel. As you are well aware, federal law expressly prohibits such obstruction. Under Section 527(a) of the *Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024* (Public Law 118-47), which was extended as part of the *FY2025 Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act* (Public Law 119-4), Members of Congress may not be denied access to federal detention facilities. ICE's refusal to permit entry is not just a procedural failure—it is a direct violation of the law and a breach of transparency and accountability that must be addressed immediately.

Further, ICE's failure to update its Online Detainee Locator database in the wake of increased enforcement efforts in Los Angeles and elsewhere has created widespread confusion and emotional harm. In numerous cases, families were forced to file missing persons reports, contact local hospitals, and travel to facilities in search of information about detained loved ones—all of which could have been avoided with timely and accurate data reporting. This lack of communication is not only negligent, but dangerous.

As a Member of Congress and a member of the Appropriations Committee tasked with conducting oversight over your federal funding, I demand an immediate, full investigation into this matter. The investigation should include:

1. The use of chemical agents against myself, my colleagues, and those present, including a probe into the staff who made the decision, and whether the decision to use chemical agents violated any policies, procedures, or laws governing their use.
2. The names of every ICE and DHS staff involved in the decision to use chemical agents against Members of Congress.
3. An explanation for the unlawful denial of congressional access to this facility, including whether the denial violated Section 527(a) of the *Further Consolidated Appropriations Act*, or any other law or policy governing the Department of Homeland Security.
4. A review of communications protocols and detainee information systems to prevent further failures of this magnitude.

I expect a prompt response to these matters.

Sincerely,



Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress