

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 25, 2017

The Honorable Trey Gowdy
Chairman
House Committee on Oversight
and Government Reform
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Elijah Cummings
Ranking Member
House Committee on Oversight
and Government Reform
2471 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Gowdy and Ranking Member Cummings,

We write to respectfully request that you immediately convene a hearing to investigate recent incidents of grave concern involving U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officials in our home state and around the country. These incidents, several of which are recorded on video, call into question whether ICE officials are conducting themselves in full accordance with federal law and agency policies and procedures.

In the last several months there have been multiple allegations of ICE officers around the country failing to follow proper protocol, potentially acting in violation of an individual's constitutional rights in some instances. If those officers were in fact following procedure, they clearly conducted themselves in a troubling manner that raises questions about whether those procedures need to be improved and if officers receive sufficient training. We would like to bring to your attention two particular events that occurred recently in Oregon.

On September 18, 2017, plainclothes ICE officers approached Isidro Andrade-Tafolla, a United States citizen, and his wife near the Washington County Courthouse in Hillsboro, Oregon. The officers began asking questions and demanded that Isidro provide identification, yet the officers ignored multiple requests by Mr. Andrade-Tafolla and his wife to show credentials or identify themselves. When the officers realized Mr. Andrade-Tafolla was not the intended target of their enforcement action, they left without providing any explanation.

Additionally, on October 19, 2017, plainclothes ICE officers reportedly entered a private residence in apparent violation of the Fourth Amendment without a warrant or permission to enter and arrested an individual working in the home. ICE has since stated that the matter is under agency review. These events demonstrate the urgent need for your Committee to provide additional Congressional oversight.

Following these two disturbing events, we sent several inquiries to ICE requesting information. On September 22, 2017, we joined Ranking Member Conyers and Ranking Member Lofgren in sending a letter to ICE Acting Director Thomas Homan expressing our concerns and requesting answers to a list of questions by October 9, 2017. We have yet to receive a response from Acting Director Homan. After the most recent ICE incident in our state, we sent Director Homan a subsequent letter dated October 20, 2017.

These questionable actions by ICE are perpetuating fear in our communities and raising concerns about safety. We look forward to working with you to provide continued oversight of ICE in order to improve its policies, procedures, and training. We are confident you share our goals of increased public accountability, trust, and safety.

Sincerely,



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



Kurt Schrader
Member of Congress