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EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES

UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
ROSA L. DELAURO
3RD DISTRICT, CONNECTICUT

October 17, 2025

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

Dear Acting Director Lyons,

I am writing regarding a raid carried out by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in Hamden, Connecticut, on October 15, 2025. On this date, ICE agents raided Optimo Car Wash, and, according to witnesses and local government reports, detained several of the employees as well as one customer. I am disconcerted by eyewitness accounts that some of those being detained had school-age children, and the detainees were forcibly prevented by ICE agents from communicating information that would ensure their children's safety.

I am disturbed that this raid was carried out in an unsafe and unprofessional manner that featured only minimal communication with local law enforcement and no communication with the Hamden mayor's office. According to the mayor's office, ICE agents called the general Hamden police dispatch number and gave only cursory notification to the on-duty dispatcher that a raid would be occurring. This is contrary to best practices of immigration enforcement, which should include at a minimum advance notification of Department leadership in order to ensure the safety of all parties involved in an enforcement action, including federal and local law enforcement officers. ICE's minimal communication left local law enforcement in the dark and demonstrated a shocking lack of professionalism and respect for your fellow law enforcement agencies.

It is my understanding that at this time, no information has been shared by your agency regarding the individuals who were detained, including their names, and what their legal immigration status may or may not be. Based on the aforementioned lack of communication and your agency's widely-publicized aggressive approach to immigration enforcement and detention, I am deeply concerned that the individuals apprehended in this operation may be experiencing violations of their civil rights, and that their children and families may be suffering severe harm

while unable to contact their loved ones. Therefore, I am requesting the following information regarding this raid:

- What are the names of those individuals who were detained?
- What violations were cited to justify their detainment?
- Did the ICE agents have a judicial warrant for this operation? If so, what were the charges?
- Have any charges been filed against those who have been detained, and if so what charges?
- Where are these individuals currently being held?
- Have they been allowed to contact their attorney of record (who has been provided by New Haven Legal Assistance) or family members? If not, when will they be able to do so?

Everyone in the United States is entitled to due process under the law. This is a fundamental tenet of our Constitution. The aggressive tactics used in this raid, and others like it around the country, have escalated tensions in communities and are exacerbating fear and distrust of law enforcement. They have done nothing to make our communities safer.

Your prompt response to my concerns and questions is appreciated.

Sincerely,



Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress

Cc: Kristi Noem, Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security