Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 15, 2015

VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

Sarah Saldaña
Assistant Secretary
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20536

Dear Assistant Secretary Saldaña:

In August, the Los Angeles Times reported that U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) arrested 244 immigrants with criminal records as part of a four-day sweep across Southern California.[1] Reportedly, the majority of these individuals entered the country illegally and were subsequently convicted of at least one felony, including violent crimes, weapons, or sex abuse charges.[2]

Disturbingly, based on statements made by ICE, it appears that these dangerous felons who entered the country illegally were freely roaming our streets due in part to sanctuary city policies at the state and local level. According to an agency spokesman:

> One of the challenges we're facing is because of state law and local policies, more individuals who are potentially deportable with significant criminal histories are being released onto the street instead of being turned over to ICE.[3]

Operations such as the four-day manhunt in question involve costs to the federal taxpayer and inherent safety risks – both of which could be avoided if state and local jurisdictions simply agreed to hold these dangerous criminal aliens until ICE can take them into custody.

Accordingly, by no later than October 30, 2015, please provide written responses to the following questions:

1. How much did it cost to fund this four-day operation?

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[1] Joseph Serna and Kate Linthicum, "244 immigrants arrested in four-day sweep across Southern California," *Los Angeles Times*, Aug. 31, 2015, available at http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-240-immigrants-arrested-ice-20150831-story.html.
[2] *Id.*
[3] *Id.*

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2. How many of the 244 individuals had previously been in ICE custody but released? For each of these individuals, please explain the reason for the release and provide full criminal and immigration histories.

3. How many of the 244 individuals were the subject of ICE's detainer requests that were ignored by state or local law enforcement agencies? For each of these individuals, please provide full criminal and immigration histories.

4. How many of the 244 individuals were in the country illegally?

Please number your responses according to their corresponding questions. If you have any questions, please contact Jay Lim of the Senate Judiciary Committee at (202) 224-5225 or Tracy Short of the House Judiciary Committee at (202) 225-3926. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Charles E. Grassley
Chairman
Senate Committee on the Judiciary

Bob Goodlatte
Chairman
House Committee on the Judiciary

cc:

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on the Judiciary

The Honorable John Conyers
Ranking Member
House Committee on the Judiciary