

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 12, 2022

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Mayorkas,

We write to request an update on the agency's review of the 287(g) program and reiterate our concern that the program be ended without delay. In February 2021 and again in September 2021, more than 50 members of Congress wrote you explaining that the program, which taps state and local law enforcement agencies to assist in deportations, undermines public safety and contributes to civil rights violations. The agency currently has more than 140 agreements with state and local law enforcement agencies to assist in deportation efforts around the country, compared to fewer than 35 such agreements at the conclusion of the Obama administration.

In a March 2021 reply to our initial letter, Acting Director of Immigration Customs and Enforcement (ICE) Tae Johnson committed to reviewing the 287(g) program. Acting Director Johnson made this same commitment in a reply to our September 2021 letter which also called for an end to the program. However, to date the agency has not announced a process for this review—including seeking input from community members, public safety experts and other stakeholders—nor has it described a timeline for it.

A serious review of the program would show that despite your important efforts to bring humanity and fairness to ICE's interior immigration enforcement practices, the 287(g) program remains dangerous and needs to be dismantled. It is all too easy to imagine a subsequent administration using this program to turbo charge a deportation agenda, conscripting local police to identify and arrest millions of our immigrant loved ones and neighbors.

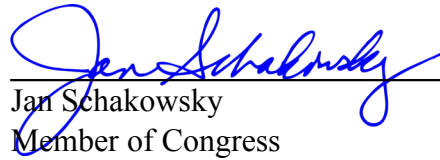
The Trump administration expanded the 287(g) program five-fold, recruiting blatantly xenophobic, anti-immigrant sheriffs to join it despite their records of civil rights violations; and nearly all of these sheriffs remain in the program. A recent American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) report found that at least 65% of 287(g)-participating agencies have records of civil rights violations, including police beatings and shootings, deaths in local jails, and unconstitutional arrests. Our constituents expect us to condemn local law enforcement's abuses and support police reform— not reward serial abusers with federal immigration authorities, training and partnership.

It is time to dismantle this program and the administration's partnerships with abusive local law enforcement agencies. We look forward to receiving your update on your agency's review and plans to terminate the dangerous program. Thank you for time and attention to this matter.

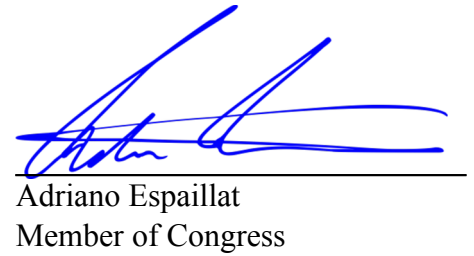
Sincerely,



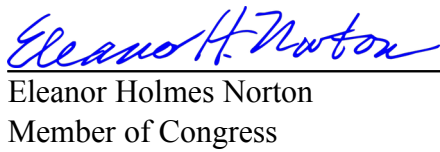
Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



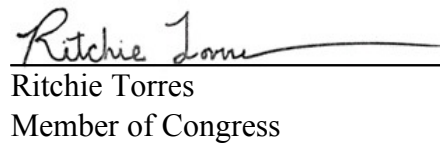
Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



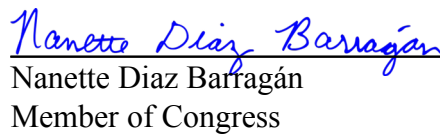
Ritchie Torres
Member of Congress



Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress



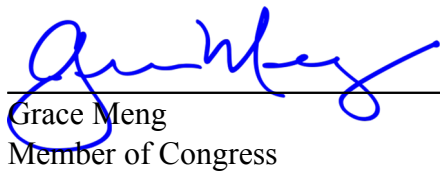
Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress



Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress



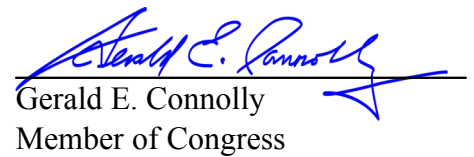
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



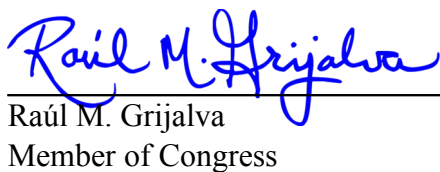
Grace Meng
Member of Congress



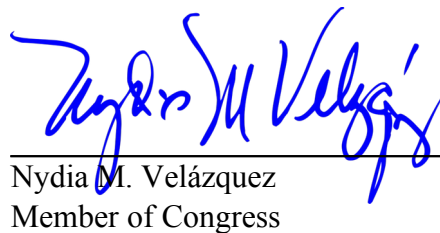
André Carson
Member of Congress



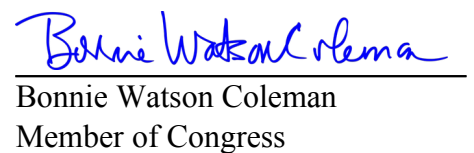
Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress



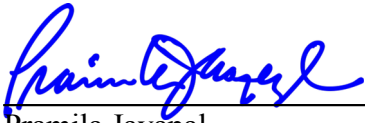
Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



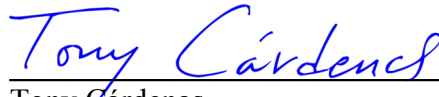
Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



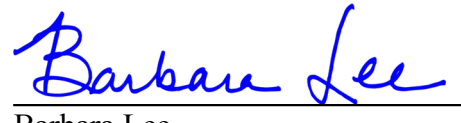
Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



Tony Cardenas
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



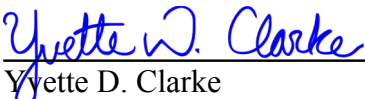
Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



Jason Crow
Member of Congress




Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



David J. Trone
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



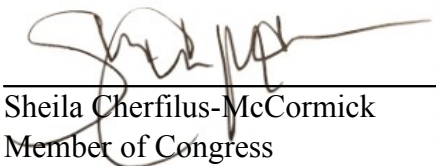
Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



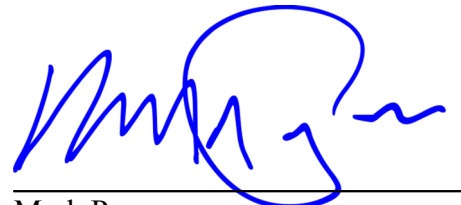
Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress



Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick
Member of Congress



Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress




Marie Newman
Member of Congress



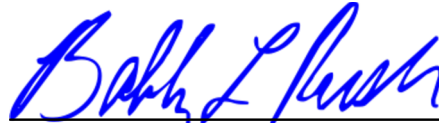
Adam Smith
Member of Congress



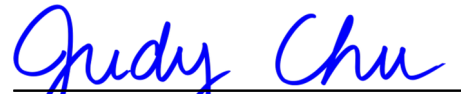
Anthony G. Brown
Member of Congress



Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress



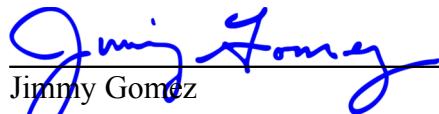
Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Peter Welch
Member of Congress



Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress



Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress



Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress



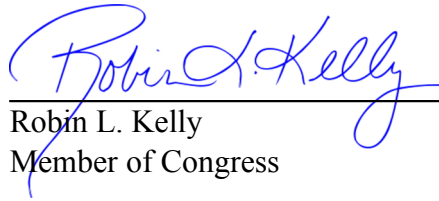
Veronica Escobar
Member of Congress



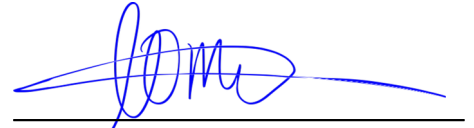
Juan Vargas
Member of Congress

A blue ink handwritten signature of Jamaal Bowman, featuring a stylized 'J' and 'B'.

Jamaal Bowman, Ed.D.
Member of Congress

A blue ink handwritten signature of Robin L. Kelly, written in a cursive style.

Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress

A blue ink handwritten signature of Ilhan Omar, featuring a stylized 'I' and 'O'.

Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress