

State of Kansas



BRANDON WOODARD
House Democratic Leader

August 19, 2025

Senator Jerry Moran
521 Dirksen Senate Office Building

Senator Roger Marshall
479-A Russell Senate Office Building

Subject: Immediate Demand to Cease Illegal Raids and Detentions in Kansas

Dear Senators Moran and Marshall,

We write to you today, extraordinarily concerned with the unprofessional behavior and the disregard for fundamental rights displayed by the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) internal division, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), in both Johnson and Wyandotte County, Kansas, on July 30, 2025.

Armed and allegedly unmarked, men entered local business establishments, ostensibly with only an administrative warrant, sealed the exits, and arrested and detained employees during a lunch shift. Videos, first witness accounts, and anecdotal reports from similar raids conducted throughout the country reveal that those being detained include women, the elderly, and, in some instances, children, family members of active-duty members of the US Armed Forces, as well as citizens who are being racially profiled as non-citizens.

Further, immigration legal experts report that frequently, those detained by DHS's ICE "agents" are not being provided access to lawyers, permitted to contact family members, and that the outcomes after detainment are unknown and uncertain. In Lenexa, it has been reported that after ICE agents seized the local employees, the restaurant was left unattended with the oven remaining on, posing a fire hazard to adjacent businesses. As members of our Federal Delegation in the United States Senate and House of Representatives, we believe you are likely familiar with the provisions within the US Constitution applicable in such actions, specifically the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments.

The Fourth Amendment prohibits unreasonable searches and seizures, requiring judicial warrants and a neutral decision-maker to review the circumstances of a raid, including whether or not there is probable cause. The requirement of probable cause means that the DHS's subdivision, ICE, can only issue detainers against noncitizens who are already removable. The Fourteenth Amendment prohibits governments, at the Federal, State, and local levels, from depriving any *person* of "life, liberty, or property, without due process of law." Procedural due process concerns the procedures the government must follow before it deprives an individual of their rights. It demands, at a

minimum, (1) notice; (2) an opportunity to be heard; and (3) a neutral tribunal. Extrajudicial activity, outside the scope of the Constitutional framework, endangers us and sows distrust.

We urge you, in your respective capacities, to exercise your authority to conduct congressional oversight of U.S. Federal Agencies, specifically the DHS, which has become bloated and reckless due to the infusion of cash by Congress, despite failing to fulfill its constitutionally obligated oversight responsibilities. We also ask that you encourage the President to require that ICE abide by the “sensitive locations” policy to keep federal agents from entering our schools without an urgent cause.

Sincerely,

House Democratic Leader Brandon
Woodard, HD 108
House Democratic Whip Jo Ella Hoye, HD
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Representative Jarrod Ousley, HD 24
Representative Heather Meyer, HD 29
Representative Nikki McDonald, HD 49
Representative Lindsay Vaughn, HD 22
Representative Rui Xu, HD 25
Representative Cindy Neighbor, HD 18
Representative Linda Featherston, HD 16
Representative Dr. Melissa Oropeza, HD 37
Representative Louis Ruiz, HD 31

Representative Susan Ruiz, HD 23
Representative John Alcala, HD 57
Representative Jerry Stogsdill, HD 21
Representative Kirk Haskins, HD 53
Representative Lynn Melton, HD 36
Representative Stephanie Sawyer Clayton,
HD 19
Senate Democratic Leader Dinah Sykes, SD
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Senator Mary Ware, SD 25
Senator Pat Pettey, SD 6
Senator Cindy Holscher, SD 8
Senator Ethan Corson, SD 7