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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

February 19, 2025

The Honorable Todd Lyons
Acting Director
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
500 12th St. SW
Washington, DC 20536

Dear Acting Director Lyons:

On January 7, 2026, anonymous whistleblowers revealed a disturbing revelation that U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents are circulating a memo asserting power to forcefully enter private homes without a judicial warrant. This is a violation of the Fourth Amendment, which protects all people against unreasonable searches and seizures. ICE's actions are irresponsible and unconstitutional. These actions must be stopped immediately.

More specifically, this "secret memo" is an unconstitutional policy that claims to authorize ICE agents to use an administrative warrant, via ICE Form I-205, to allow ICE agents to forcibly enter the homes of certain noncitizens without a judicial warrant or without the individual's consent. Form I-205 is signed by any supervising ICE agent, not a neutral and detached magistrate. This is a clear violation of the Fourth Amendment, and there are decades of legal precedent that state that warrants must be issued by a neutral and detached magistrate or judge. In addition, this goes against published training from ICE. The whistleblower's disclosure states how this "secret memo" contradicts the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) own Basic Immigration Enforcement Training Program materials. Per the whistleblower complaint, "a warrant of removal/deportation does NOT alone authorize a 4th amendment search of any kind."¹

Our country is built on the constitutional foundation of due process and inalienable rights for all. Not only is the substance of the "secret memo" unconstitutional, it was distributed in a manner that lacks transparency and destroys public trust. The "secret memo's" illegal actions were addressed to all ICE personnel, yet was not distributed to ICE personnel. Instead, the whistleblower stated it was distributed to a select group of officials who were directed to *verbally* brief ICE agents on the new policy. The only logical reason for these actions is to avoid a paper trail and skirt public accountability.

As the Congressman for California's 29th Congressional District – a district that has been hard-hit by ICE raids – I will continue to hold this Administration accountable. ICE is operating with a

¹Whistleblower Aid. (2026, January 21). DHS ICE memo 1-21-26 [Whistleblower disclosure]. DocumentCloud. <https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/26499371-dhs-ice-memo-1-21-26/>

blunt disregard for constitutional rights and treating civil liberties as optional. These are warning signs that our country is shifting from the rule of law to *rule by force*. Our country is shifting from a democracy to *authoritarianism*. And ICE is the spearhead to our democracy's decline.

I demand that you cease these unconstitutional actions and policies immediately.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Luz M. Rivas". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Luz M. Rivas
Member of Congress
California's Twenty-Ninth District