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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-4709

January 7, 2016

Secretary Jeh Johnson  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Johnson,

I am extremely disturbed by recent reports of Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE) actions in several states that are specifically targeting undocumented women and children from South and Central America. I write to raise concerns about these activities and to call for additional information to be made public about the agency's actions.

It has been reported that these raids have already resulted in the detention of 121 individuals, including in many cases, individuals who were not the focus of targeted enforcement actions. I am particularly troubled that in carrying out sweeping new enforcement activity, individuals may not be fully afforded their rights to due process.

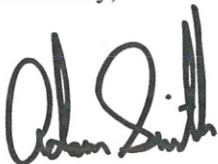
Many of the families who are the reported targets of ongoing ICE enforcement came to the United States after fleeing extreme violence in their home countries, and may be returned to extraordinarily dangerous situations without being afforded all opportunities to seek asylum in the United States. These families, particularly children, are a vulnerable population and must be afforded the guarantee of access to all avenues in our judicial and immigration systems.

Without representation, unaccompanied children and their families face a massively complex legal and immigration system that is difficult to navigate. Deporting individuals, even those with final removal orders, should be done only after confirming that these individuals and families had fair, timely proceedings and that they were afforded adequate opportunities to seek representation and prepare their cases. The haste with which these recent and ongoing actions have and continue to take place, as well as specific reports from affected communities, raise considerable concern that all necessary steps have not been followed in all cases.

Finally, I am extremely alarmed and frustrated by the lack of transparency about ICE's actions and the poor communication between ICE, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and Congress. There undoubtedly exists a need for operational security and that certain details of this matter need to be safeguarded. However, ICE and DHS have fallen far short of being forthcoming with the public, affected communities, and even Congress about the policy objectives and impacts of these enforcement activities, or whether those targeted by the raids have had fully access to legal options.

American values demand that we afford due process and legal protections in all circumstances. I appreciate your attention to my concerns.

Sincerely,



Adam Smith  
Member of Congress