

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

July 17, 2026

The Honorable David J. Venturella
Acting Director
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
500 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20536

Dear Acting Director Venturella:

I write to follow up on my January 2026 congressional oversight visit to the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement facility in Stockton, California. During that visit, I raised serious concerns regarding ICE's activities in the region and requested information about the agency's enforcement practices, treatment of individuals reporting for required appointments, and safeguards intended to protect the constitutional and civil rights of my constituents.

The visit followed my October 28, 2025, letter concerning ICE's detention of individuals who voluntarily appeared for compliance check-ins, reported barriers to legal counsel, uses of force against community members, the possible detention of U.S. citizens, and ICE's procedures for informing families about the location and status of detained individuals. ICE has not provided substantive responses to the questions raised in either my letter or my subsequent oversight visit.

In the six months since my oversight visit to the Stockton ICE facility, my office has continued to hear troubling reports from constituents regarding ICE enforcement activities in the Stockton area. These include alleged instances of ICE officials purposefully obscuring their identity in the field, conducting enforcement activity with unmarked vehicles, patrolling near schools, and bringing unaccompanied children to the Stockton facility. Such actions raise due process and civil rights concerns, and also fosters mistrust of ICE within the community.

ICE's continued failure to provide basic information to either the public or Congress directly harms our community, frustrates Congress's constitutional oversight responsibilities, and leaves my constituents without answers about actions that have profoundly affected their families and community. Accordingly, I am requesting that ICE provide the following information no later than July 28, 2026:

1. Complete written responses to each question contained in my October 28, 2025, letter.
2. A description of the Stockton ICE facility's current purpose, functions, staffing, hours of operation, and detention capacity, including:
 - a. the maximum length of time adults and children may be held at the facility;
 - b. the safeguards and services available to individuals held there, including access to counsel, family members, food, water, medical care, interpretation services, and appropriate accommodations for children; and

- c. any changes to the facility's mission, staffing, operating hours, detention practices, or physical configuration since January 2026.
3. Current policies regarding the use of unmarked vehicles, masks, and body-worn cameras in the conduct of enforcement activity.
4. Current policies regarding the transportation, questioning, temporary detention, and care of children who are brought to the Stockton facility without a parent, legal guardian, or family member present.
5. Current policies governing enforcement activities at or near schools, childcare facilities, school bus stops, and other locations regularly frequented by children.
6. Current plans for compliance with legally-required court orders and federally-mandated policies.

My constituents deserve clarity and accountability from the federal government. I look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Josh Harder". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Josh Harder
Member of Congress

Attachment: October 28, 2025 letter to Acting Director Todd Lyons, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

October 28, 2025

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

Dear Acting Director Lyons,

I write to request information regarding recent ICE activity in Stockton over the weekend of October 25th 2025. Given the impact these events have had on my constituents, I am requesting the following information no later than November 7, 2025. If I have not received a response, I will pursue all available oversight tools.

According to witnesses, ICE directed roughly 50 residents to appear for unexpected Saturday appointments at the Stockton field office. Many of these residents were already cooperating with existing check-in/compliance programs with your agency. When they arrived at the field office, which is typically closed on Saturdays, approximately half were detained. Attorneys on site say they were denied access to clients or told ICE would not recognize them, despite showing valid bar IDs.

Community members outside the building reported that an officer used a chemical spray on a protester. The following business day, constituents arriving for regular weekday check-ins found the Stockton office closed without instructions on where to report. Constituents report that many of those detained have no criminal record and are long-time San Joaquin Valley residents. This was a seemingly intentional sweep to meet detention quotas, with no public safety goal.

Alleged concerning ICE activity included: (1) calling people in for “check-ins” and then detaining them without notice; (2) blocking or delaying access to counsel; (3) use of chemical agents and force on peaceful observers; (4) refusing to disclose where detainees were taken; and (5) potentially detaining and/or arresting U.S. citizens. These allegations raise serious due process, civil rights, and safety concerns.

Similar tactics have been seen across California and other states, including masked agents, large-volume detentions of nonviolent residents, and reported detention of U.S. citizens. This weekend’s events in Stockton appear to be part of that pattern.

ICE is a federal law enforcement agency. My constituents are entitled to due process, access to counsel, and basic transparency. To that end, I am requesting the following information no later than November 7, 2025:

1. Explain how abruptly detaining dozens of people who voluntarily appeared for compliance check-ins, then closing the local office without clear instructions, is consistent with ICE's stated community safety mission.
2. Describe all uses of force connected to the Stockton operation or the protest outside the Stockton office, including any use of chemical spray, zip-ties, or other crowd-control measures.
3. Identify the immigration status of residents detained by ICE, including whether any US citizens were arrested.
4. Provide ICE policy on access to counsel at in-person check-ins, and state whether that policy was followed in Stockton. Include any written guidance given to Stockton personnel regarding attorney access on October 25–26, 2025.
5. Clarify ICE's policy and process with regard to informing families and/or loved ones as to the rights and whereabouts of the detained individuals.

People in Stockton are now afraid to appear for required ICE appointments, to ask where a detained family member was taken, or to cooperate with law enforcement at all. My constituents deserve clarity and accountability from the federal government.

Please provide your responses electronically to my office no later than November 7, 2025.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Josh Harder". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Josh Harder
Member of Congress