

Why Congress must

DEFUND HATE

by cutting funding to ICE and CBP

Congress must take steps now to cut funding that rips families apart and threatens immigrant communities.

We should be investing in programs proven to foster community growth – using our tax dollars to fund education, health care, and other services that support healthy families and communities. But Congress is instead funding agencies like Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) that weaken, rather than strengthen, our communities.

Under the guise of enforcing immigration, both agencies have perpetrated human rights violations and grossly mismanaged their budgets. Yet multiple presidential administrations have continued to fuel the U.S. detention and deportation machine. Since their creation in 2003, the ICE and CBP budgets have more than doubled.

As Congress makes FY21 funding decisions, we urge legislators to stop funding cruelty against immigrants and create humane policies that recognize the rights and dignity of all people.

We urge Congress to:

- **Significantly cut funding for ICE and CBP**

Cutting funding is essential to rein in ICE's reckless expansion of its network of jails and enforcement operations and CBP's increasingly militarized force on the southern border, both of which have resulted in immigrant deaths and human rights violations. Additional funding for these agencies will only lead to holding more people in deadly detention. Congress must also reject requests for additional funding to hire more ICE and CBP agents.

- **Expand oversight of existing enforcement policies and spending practices**

Congress must oppose the Trump administration's efforts to give the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) authority to unilaterally overstep appropriations authority. Appropriation bills must limit DHS's authority to transfer and/or reprogram money toward building the wall, new detention facilities, or enforcement programs.

- **Defund cruel immigration enforcement policies**

It's critical that Congress stop funding anti-immigrant executive actions that erode the safety and vibrancy of our communities, such as the Muslim ban and the "migrant protection protocols," which return asylum seekers to dangerous conditions in Mexico.

- **Reject funding for a border wall**

Congress must vote against the appropriations of funds for border wall construction and prohibit the transfer and reprogramming of funds from other programs for border wall construction.

Why should Congress defund hate by cutting funding to ICE and CBP?

- **ICE and CBP facilities are plagued by inhumane conditions, and both agencies perpetuate a culture of violence that results in systemwide abuses, including deaths.**

Since 2004, over 190 people have died in ICE custody. Since 2010, over 100 people have died after interactions with CBP. Those detained by ICE and CBP are often denied health care, given rotten food, and sexually and physically abused by guards.

- **ICE and CBP operate in secrecy and circumvent even the most basic of oversight measures to evade accountability.**

ICE often refuses to report on detention levels, facilities, and spending. The agency also presents inaccurate information to Congress and the public. Both ICE and CBP are unaccountable to the courts and Congress.

- **ICE and CBP harm communities nationwide.**

For the past three decades, the government has put hundreds of thousands of immigrants behind bars at a massive human, financial, and moral cost. ICE and CBP separate loved ones and tear people away from their communities, forever altering family's livelihoods and well-being. Arresting, detaining, and deporting immigrants subject them to an enforcement system that deprives them of a fair hearing and due process is immoral.

- **ICE and CBP are agencies rooted in racism and xenophobia.**

ICE and CBP target Black and brown immigrant communities, combining demonizing rhetoric, violent tactics, and criminalizing practices that spread xenophobia and galvanize white supremacists. ICE and CBP were founded on dehumanizing laws that allow our government to criminalize immigration, incarcerate and deport millions of people, and further marginalize people of color.

We call on Congress to vote against wasting taxpayer dollars on an abusive and deadly immigration enforcement system. *NO more funding for ICE and CBP!*



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