

LYNN WOOLSEY
6TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEES:

EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE

RANKING MEMBER, SUBCOMMITTEE ON
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March 12, 2007

Dear Friends,

Like all of you, I am deeply concerned about the recent ICE (U. S. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement) sweeps in our neighborhoods – both the manner in which they were conducted and their effects on our community. This “Operation Return to Sender” initiative has resulted in many arrests and caused undue anxiety.

No one, especially our children, should have to live in fear. Nor should they have to live in ignorance of their basic rights in this country. Local organizations and officials, with whom I have been in close contact, can assist with many of these issues and are an important resource for our immigrant communities.

On the Federal level, however, I have been working with other California Members of Congress to demand full and comprehensive answers from ICE regarding their policies and procedures in these actions. Representative Zoe Lofgren of San Jose, who is Chair of the Immigration Subcommittee, has written to the director of ICE on our behalf detailing these concerns, requesting both a prompt response and arrangement of briefings for congressional representatives, local agencies and the public. Copies of this letter are available from my staff.

And it is important to realize that none of this would be happening if we had a sound and meaningful immigration policy. Immigration continues to be an asset to this country and to California, and I will continue fighting to develop a policy that is fair and humane and offers a pathway to permanency.

Please know that I care deeply about the impact these operations have on you and our community. My staff is here tonight to listen to and support you and the local officials acting on your behalf.

Sincerely,



Lynn Woolsey
Member of Congress

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12 Marzo 2007

A Todos los Aquí Presentes,

Cómo todos ustedes, me encuentro muy preocupada por las recientes redadas de inmigración ICE en nuestras áreas – tanto la forma en que se llevaron a cabo como el efecto que han tenido en nuestra comunidad. Esta iniciativa llamada “Operation Return to Sender” ha resultado en muchos arrestos y ha causado gran ansiedad.

Ninguna persona, especialmente nuestros niños, tendría que vivir con miedo. Ni tampoco tendrían que vivir privados de sus derechos básicos dentro de este país. Las organizaciones y oficiales locales, con quienes he estado en contacto directo, pueden prestar ayuda con estas situaciones y son un recurso importante para nuestras comunidades de inmigrantes.

A nivel Federal, he estado trabajando en California con otros miembros del Congreso para exigir contestaciones amplias y entendibles de ICE sobre sus pólizas y procedimientos en estas redadas. La Representante Zoe Lofgren de San José, que dirige el Subcomité de Inmigración ha escrito al director de ICE a nombre de todos nosotros explicando en detalle nuestras preocupaciones y solicitando una respuesta inmediata así como que se proporcionen instrucciones a representantes del Congreso, a agencias locales y al público. Se pueden obtener copias de este documento a través de mis empleados directos.

Es importante reconocer que nada de esto hubiese sucedido si tuviéramos un proceso migratorio apropiado. La inmigración continúa siendo una ventaja para este país y para California, y continuaré luchando para desarrollar un plan de acción que sea justo y humano y que ofrezca la oportunidad de abrir el camino a una permanencia legal.

Quiero que sepan que me preocupa muchísimo el impacto que estas redadas ocasionen a ustedes y a nuestra comunidad. Mi personal se encuentra aquí para escuchar y apoyarlos así como a los oficiales locales que los representan.

Apentamente,



Lynn Woolsey
Member of Congress