MAYOR REX RICHARDSON
CITY OF LONG BEACH

September 8, 2025

The Honorable Alex Padilla
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Robert Garcia
United States House of Representatives
109 Cannon House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Adam Schiff
United States Senate
112 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nanette Diaz Barragán
United States House of Representatives
2312 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Support for Key Federal Immigration Enforcement Legislation

Dear Senators Padilla and Schiff and Representatives Garcia and Barragán,

The City of Long Beach (City) is proud to support its diverse and vibrant immigrant communities. Long Beach would not be the city it is today without the generations of immigrants who have built our economy, enriched our culture, and strengthened our collective spirit. The destructive actions by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents across Southern California in recent months has caused untold harm within countless families and neighborhoods. These actions do not make us safer, and do not reflect the values of this City.

The City recognizes the urgent need for comprehensive immigration reform to bring stability to families, strengthen the resilience of the country's diverse workforce, and foster the growth of our national economy so that the United States can remain globally competitive. The City also acknowledges the fear created by unidentified and masked agents in Long Beach and affirms that building community trust and honoring the dignity of every individual is essential to effective public safety efforts. Legislation to address this issue must be enforceable and effective in producing the transparency and respect every resident deserves. To protect the constitutional rights of every individual and ensure the safety and accessibility of public spaces, the City strongly supports following legislation.

Transparency and Visibility

- **S. 2212 (Padilla)—The Visible Identification Standards for Immigration-Based Law Enforcement (VISIBLE) Act**
    - Would require immigration enforcement officers, including U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) personnel (such as Customs and Border Protection and ICE), federal agents detailed to immigration operations, and deputized state or local officers, to display clearly visible identification during public-facing enforcement actions including their agency name or initials and either their name or badge number

- **H.R. 4004 (Velázquez)—No Anonymity in Immigration Enforcement Act**
    - Would restrict face coverings for federal agents, including any employee, officer, or contractor acting under the authority of ICE
    - Would prohibit agents from covering their faces during enforcement actions, except where medically necessary or required for immediate safety concerns and requires agents to wear clothing that clearly displays their name and agency affiliation during arrests or enforcement operations
- **H.R. 3172 (Watson Coleman)—ICE Visibility Act**
    - Would amend section 287 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to mandate uniform identification standards for ICE and all other immigration officers, to wear visible and distinct uniforms during a time of action
- **H.R. 4176 (Goldman)—No Secret Police Act**
    - Would require DHS officers and other agents involved in border security or immigration enforcement to visibly display official insignia or uniforms and identify their agency during detentions or arrests.
    - Would prohibit face coverings that conceal an agent's identity, except when using approved tactical gear

Legal Services

- **H.R. 3101 (Garcia)—Securing Help for Immigrants Through Education and Legal Development (SHIELD) Act**
    - Would ensure that high quality legal representation is accessible for individuals in immigration court, and create a grant program to support the recruitment, training, retention, and development of staff and resources for immigrant legal defenders.
- **S. 1297 (Hirono)—Fair Day in Court for Kids Act**
    - Would require the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to provide counsel to noncitizen unaccompanied children appearing before the U.S. Department of Justice, DHS, or a state court, unless the child has obtained counsel at their own expense, in addition to informing children of their right to representation within 72 hours of entering federal custody
- **H.R. 3127 (Torres)—Fairness to Freedom Act**
    - Would amend Section 292 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to require ICE to facilitate access to in-person legal counsel for individuals in any removal, exclusion, deportation, bond, or expedited removal proceeding

Restricting ICE Activity

- **H.R. 1061 (Espaillat) and S. 455 (Blumenthal)—Protecting Sensitive Locations Act**
    - Would prohibit immigration enforcement actions at designated sensitive locations including but not limited to schools, hospitals, places of worship, and courthouses except under specific, limited circumstances
- **S. 916 (Murray)—Stop Shackling and Detaining Pregnant Women Act**
    - Would prohibit the use of physical restraints on pregnant women in DHS custody during pregnancy, labor, and postpartum recovery, and limit the detention of pregnant women and mothers of newborns by establishing a presumption of release

Immigration Reform

- **Renewing Immigration Provisions of the Immigration Act of 1929 Act (Padilla)**
    - Would allow for long-term residents to apply for lawful permanent resident status if they have lived in the U.S. continuously for at least seven years prior, have no criminal record, and meet other specified conditions

The City will continue to actively support and evaluate legislation at the local, state, and federal levels, while pursuing legal advocacy and strategic partnerships that uplift and empower immigrant communities. The City remains deeply committed to protecting families, advancing dignity, and honoring the invaluable contributions of every resident – regardless of where they were born or what language they speak. Thank you for your leadership and bold action to support residents in Long Beach, and across the state of California.

Sincerely,

Rex Richardson
Mayor of Long Beach