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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275

KOLAN L. DAVIS, *Chief Counsel and Staff Director*  
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November 4, 2015

The Honorable Sarah Saldaña  
Director  
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement  
500 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20536

Dear Director Saldaña,

On October 28, 2015, the Subcommittee on Immigration and the National Interest invited you and two other top officials at U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to testify about criminal alien removals at a hearing on November 10. This invitation followed months of requests for information from Judiciary Committee members regarding countless examples of crimes committed by aliens across this country, and a total collapse in removals of criminal aliens.

We were advised that ICE was unable to produce *any* senior officials to testify on November 10. Accordingly, per the agency's request, we offered two additional dates to accommodate your schedules: November 18 and 19. After extending this courtesy, we were advised that each of these individuals, again, had purported scheduling conflicts. Moreover, we were informed that ICE could not be present because "the hearing *isn't in response to a particular crisis.*" We disagree, and as importantly, the performance of Congress' oversight role is not contingent on a crisis.

Your agency recently informed us that it has no idea how many convicted criminal aliens are present in the United States. But we do know that there are currently at least 179,027 criminal aliens who have been ordered removed from the United States, and who are still here; at least 179,018 in active removal proceedings; ICE released 66,565 criminal aliens from its custody between FY2013-2014; and, between FY2010 and FY2014, 121 criminal aliens released by ICE went on to kill. And earlier this year, we heard testimony from family members of victims of crimes committed by criminal aliens. They also believe this issue is a crisis.

When you were nominated to lead this agency, you committed to comply with testimony and oversight requests. Therefore, we expect representatives from your agency to provide testimony and answer questions asked by members of the Committee.

Accordingly, we request the invited individuals to testify before the full Senate Judiciary Committee on one of the dates that have been offered.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Grassley  
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary



Jeff Sessions  
Chairman, Subcommittee on  
Immigration and the National Interest