

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

January 28, 2026

The Honorable Kristi Noem  
Secretary of Homeland Security  
3801 Nebraska Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20528

The Honorable Todd Lyons  
Acting Director  
Immigration and Customs Enforcement  
500 12th Street SW  
Washington, DC 20536

Dear Secretary Noem and Acting Director Lyons,

We are writing to demand that you allow Any Lucia Lopez Belloza to immediately return to the United States after your administration admitted in court that her deportation was a “mistake.”<sup>1</sup>

Ms. Lopez Belloza is a 19-year-old Babson College student from Austin, Texas who has been in the United States since she was eight years old. She was deported in direct violation of a court order after an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officer allegedly failed to let officials in Port Isabel, Texas know a judge had blocked her removal from the country. Ms. Lopez Belloza is a petitioner with pending applications for relief, including a trafficking visa (T visa) application. We ask that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) allow her to return to the United States so she can complete her studies and pursue relief through our country’s legal process. ICE’s “mistake” has already caused irreparable harm to Ms. Lopez Belloza, including interrupting her studies and forcing her to miss the start of the Spring 2026 semester.

Ms. Lopez Belloza was apprehended on November 20, 2025 at the airport by immigration officials while flying home on a domestic flight to surprise her parents for Thanksgiving. She was deported in shackles to Honduras approximately 48 hours after her arrest.<sup>2</sup> Between the time of her arrest and deportation, Ms. Lopez Belloza’s location was effectively obscured during critical periods, making it difficult for her family and lawyers to know her location.<sup>3</sup> According to court documents, Ms. Lopez Belloza’s lawyers filed a habeas corpus petition on November 21 requesting her immediate release and a stay of removal from the jurisdiction of the United States or transfer outside of the District of Massachusetts. At 6:10 PM EST on November 21, a United States District Judge ordered that “respondents will not remove the petitioner from the jurisdiction of the United States or transfer petitioner to a judicial district outside that of Massachusetts for a period of at least 72 hours from the time this Order is docketed.”<sup>4</sup>

On January 13, 2026, your administration admitted in court that an ICE agent failed to notify agents in Texas that Ms. Lopez Belloza’s deportation must be halted following the court order. Assistant U.S. Attorney Mark Sauter said during the Tuesday hearing, “on behalf of the government, we want to sincerely apologize,” adding that the employee understands “he made a mistake.”<sup>5</sup> Likewise, an ICE agent involved in her removal admitted in a court filing that he had “mistaken impressions” about ICE’s protocol, contributing to her erroneous deportation. Despite admitting its error, DHS has thus far resisted returning Ms. Lopez Belloza to the United

<sup>1</sup> CNN, “US apologizes for mistake in deporting Massachusetts college student, but defends her removal,” January 15, 2026, <https://www.cnn.com/2026/01/15/us/us-apologizes-for-mistake-in-deporting-massachusetts-college-student-but-defends-her-removal/>.

<sup>2</sup> CNN, “A college freshman deported while flying home for Thanksgiving is fighting to return. Here’s what we know about her case,” December 2, 2025, <https://www.cnn.com/2025/12/01/us/babson-college-student-deported-thanksgiving-hnk/>.

<sup>3</sup> Petitioner’s Supplemental Memorandum on Potential Remedies to the Government’s Violation of the Court’s No-Removal Order, Any Lucia Lopez Belloca v. Hyde, No. 1:25-cv-13499, January 16, 2026, <https://habeasdockets.org/dockets/docket/5498/>.

<sup>4</sup> Emergency Order Concerning Stay of Transfer or Removal, Any Lucia Lopez Belloca v. Hyde, No. 1:25-cv-13499, November 21, 2025, <https://storage.courtlistener.com/recap/gov.uscourts.mad.292111/gov.uscourts.mad.292111.2.0.pdf>.

<sup>5</sup> ABC News, “US apologizes for mistake in deporting Massachusetts college student, but defends her removal,” January 15, 2026, <https://abc7chicago.com/post/us-apologizes-mistake-deporting-massachusetts-college-student-defends-removal/18408830/>.

States. We are concerned that this incident is the latest in a pattern of DHS deporting people based on what it admits are mistakes and in violation of court orders<sup>6</sup> — and then failing to promptly rectify those mistakes, despite the life-threatening or life-altering stakes of such deportations.

As a result of your administration's "mistake," Ms. Lopez Belloza, who has no criminal history, was handcuffed and forced to sleep on the floor in a detention center before being deported to Honduras in shackles. We appreciate your acknowledgment of your error and ask that you remedy the harm you have caused this young woman and her family by allowing her to return to the United States to pursue the legal options available to her. This includes a T visa filed by Ms. Lopez Belloza's mother, who is a human trafficking victim.

Your administration claims to be going after the "worst of the worst." Instead, you have targeted a young woman who was brought to this country at eight years old and is a valuable member of our community. Ms. Lopez Belloza has spent most of her life in a working-class neighborhood in Austin, Texas. She excelled in school and made it, against the odds, into a top-tier university with a full scholarship. Your administration decided to deport her in shackles in direct violation of a federal court order. We reiterate our demand that she be allowed to return to the U.S. and ask that our demand receive full and fair consideration consistent with applicable laws, rules, and regulations.

Sincerely,



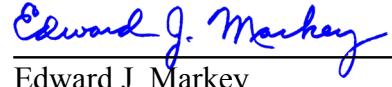
Greg Casar  
Member of Congress



Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator



Jake Auchincloss  
Member of Congress



Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
Member of Congress

<sup>6</sup> See, e.g., *NPR*, "Trump administration admits Maryland man sent to El Salvador prison by mistake," April 1, 2025, <https://www.npr.org/2025/04/01/nx-s1-5347427/maryland-el-salvador-error/>; *Politico*, "Trump administration acknowledges another error in a high-profile deportation," May 16, 2025, <https://www.politico.com/news/2025/05/16/trump-administration-another-error-high-profile-deportation-00355377/>; *People Magazine*, "After ICE Agents Realized They Arrested the Wrong Teen in N.Y.C., They Were Told to 'Take Him Anyway': Report," April 15, 2025, <https://people.com/ice-agents-arrested-wrong-teen-take-him-anyway-report-11715749/>.



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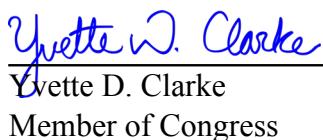
Jasmine Crockett  
Member of Congress



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Nanette Diaz Barragán

Nanette Diaz Barragán  
Member of Congress



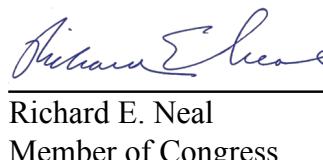
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Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress



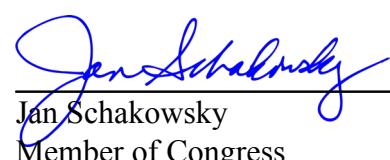
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Adriano Espaillat  
Member of Congress



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Richard E. Neal  
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Jan Schakowsky  
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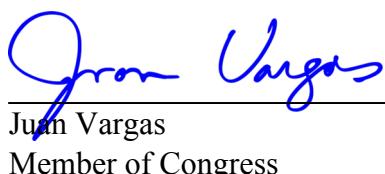
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Melanie Stansbury  
Member of Congress



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Sylvia R. Garcia  
Member of Congress



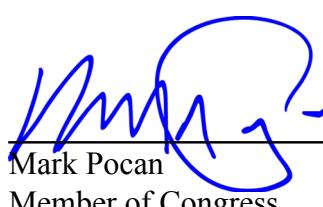
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Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress



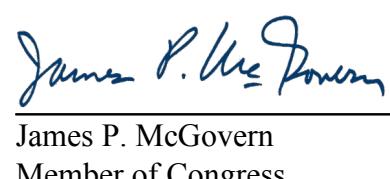
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Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress



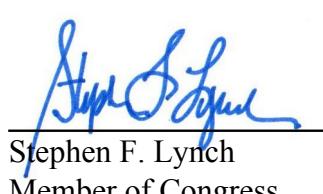
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Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress



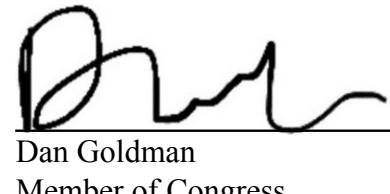
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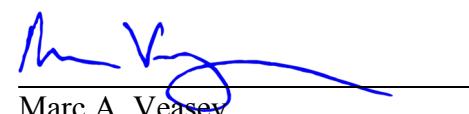
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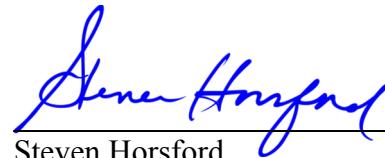
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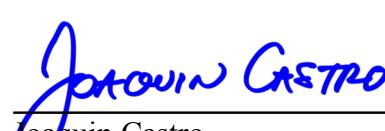
Val Hoyle  
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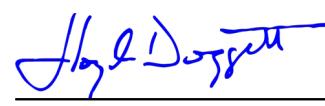
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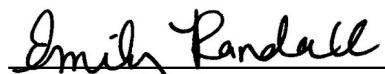
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Lateefah Simon  
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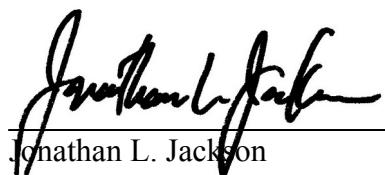
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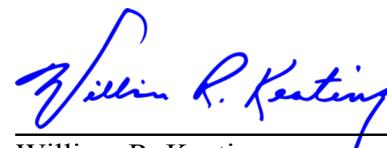
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Ted W. Lieu  
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Ayanna Pressley  
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Jimmy Gomez  
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