



## REPRESENTATIVE CRYSTAL LETT

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SERVING OHIO's 11<sup>th</sup> STATE HOUSE DISTRICT

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### **Separate DHS Funding from Broader Appropriations Package**

**29 January 2025**

Dear Senator Moreno,

I write to you as a member of the Ohio House of Representatives, on behalf of the 120,000 people in Ohio House District 11, to ask you to separate funding for immigration enforcement from the current appropriations package.

Since late 2025, I have been closely following the activity of Immigration and Customs Enforcement in Ohio, particularly within District 11. Members of our community have been forcibly taken, while their families, out of fear of retaliation from their government, have been reluctant to speak publicly. These individuals are not dangerous criminals. They are nurses, doctors, faith leaders, educators, and parents. Many already possess legal status or have been pursuing the correct legal pathways to do so. Despite following the law, they were still taken.

I have tracked as many of these cases as possible and have spoken directly with immigration attorneys and family members. In several instances, American citizens have asked that those offering assistance remain quiet, fearing that public attention could result in their loved ones being transferred out of state or facing even harsher consequences. Democratic policing is not conducted in secrecy, nor does it rely on fear, silence, or the absence of accountability.

Regardless of one's position on federal immigration policy, our government's budget should not be used to endorse practices that undermine due process, destabilize families,

or erode public trust in government institutions. Conflating immigration enforcement funding with essential state appropriations removes meaningful oversight and limits the ability of lawmakers to fully evaluate the moral, legal, and fiscal implications of these actions.

For these reasons, I urge you to separate funding for immigration enforcement from the broader appropriations package and allow this issue to be debated transparently and on its own merits.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I welcome the opportunity to discuss this matter further.

Respectfully,  
Crystal Lett, Ohio's 11<sup>th</sup> House District

  
