



VICENTE SARMIENTO

ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SUPERVISOR, SECOND DISTRICT

COUNTY ADMINISTRATION NORTH BUILDING
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January 26, 2026

The Honorable Alex Padilla
U.S. Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Adam Schiff
U.S. Senate
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Padilla and Senator Schiff,

I am writing to express urgent concerns about recent Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) actions and Department of Homeland Security (DHS) conduct that has occurred in Orange County and the nation. In recent months and the first few weeks of this year, we have witnessed disturbing and extremely violent behaviors by agents that concern the safety of our residents and serious civil rights violations.

Over the last year, we have seen an escalation in the use of force directed against peaceful demonstrations, including federal agents attacking residents for exercising their constitutional rights. We have seen the video of agents drawing their weapons on observers here in Santa Ana, the shootings in Minnesota, and the use of less-than-lethal weapons at close range that left a county resident blind in one eye and that nearly cost them their life.

I was present at the demonstration in downtown Santa Ana, before the incidents, and can attest that there were no violent instigations at the scene, despite the lies and misinformation from these agencies. After the horrific killings in Minnesota we hear from these DHS that all their actions are justified as they lie, calling peaceful protesters "domestic terrorists". These agencies and their lawlessness must be stopped.

I strongly urge you to address the serious concerns shared by many residents of the County of Orange and communities nationwide and respectfully request that our delegation ensure, through legislation and the budgetary process, that DHS and ICE are held accountable, that no additional funding be provided, and that we dismantle these agencies. Dismantling may be the only way to protect the public from the dangerous consequences of agencies that no longer follow the rule of law.

Without true congressional oversight and wholesale changes to policy, staffing, and training, these agencies will continue their pattern of escalating violence and rights abuses.

I genuinely appreciate your leadership and commitment to these issues. Given the circumstances, urgent action is called for. Thank you for addressing these urgent concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Vicente Sarmiento".

Vicente Sarmiento
Supervisor, Second District
Orange County Board of Supervisors