

February 12, 2013

Chris Crane
President
National Immigration and Customs Enforcement Council
P.O. Box 471
Oakdale, LA 71463

The Honorable Barack Obama
President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The National Immigration and Customs Enforcement Council represents 7,000 ICE officers and support staff who protect this nation and uphold our immigration laws. I write today to express my sincere and respectful concern that our union and its members have not been invited to participate in White House meetings concerning the crafting of a comprehensive immigration bill. It is my understanding that you recently met with business executives and advocacy groups to discuss immigration reform that would include legalization for those now here illegally, as well as a possible guest worker program and chain migration. These measures would have significant implications for interior immigration enforcement and I believe our officers—who risk their lives every day to secure the nation—have a crucial perspective to offer.

As you may know, ICE officers have been forced to file suit against Secretary Napolitano for actions she has taken that prevent us from doing our jobs and enforcing duly enacted law. Right now, our officers effectively have to choose between enforcing the law as we're trained or losing their jobs. I am plaintiff in this suit. Our union has also previously held our appointed director, John Morton, in no confidence with a unanimous vote.

I have attached to this letter my recent testimony before the House Judiciary Committee, which outlines in detail the concerns our officers have and the threats to public safety created by the constraints which have been placed upon us. Agent morale has been devastated. We are given directions, both verbal and written, that prevent us from being able to arrest those who are in clear violation of the law and who may even pose a threat to public safety. We are also concerned about the practice of releasing without investigation illegal aliens who have allegedly assaulted our officers.

Until these concerns are resolved, I fear that any enforcement mechanisms in a future immigration bill will, like the laws already on the books, not be enforced.

In order to share these concerns in more detail, I would therefore respectfully request, as both an ICE officer and as president of the National ICE Council, that our union be included in any future immigration meetings held at the White House.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris Crane", written in a cursive style.

Chris Crane
President, National ICE Council