



**Locals 1210 and 1944
of the
National Immigration and Customs
Enforcement Council
American Federation of Government Employees**



March 11, 2019

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As active duty U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Officers serving on the southern border of the United States in the state of Texas, we write to you on behalf of our fellow ICE Officers serving in the field.

We regretfully write to inform you that in the midst of an immigration crisis on the southern border, your Administration is squandering scarce ICE resources and playing political games with our officers, their mission, and the safety of the American public. On January 6, 2019, National ICE Council President Chris Crane personally alerted you to this situation and requested your assistance. To date, no assistance has been provided by your Administration.

You frequently speak publicly of the great public safety work ICE is doing under your leadership. To be direct Mr. President – the rhetoric doesn't match reality and we hope that this letter shows you the complete and total nonsense that is really taking place under the Trump Administration on the southern border.

As you know, every day thousands of illegal aliens are being released into the United States by your Administration. "Catch and Release" is not just happening, it's in overdrive. Catch and release must continue as ICE doesn't have sufficient custody space to hold the massive number of family units illegally entering the United States every day. DHS resources on the border are overwhelmed. Political games in Washington, DC have rendered the United States completely incapable of controlling its southern border. While agencies like ICE and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) cannot control the agendas of political leaders, they have a responsibility to properly manage our resources, under the hand we've been dealt, in a manner that best provides for enforcement generally, and first and foremost public safety. That isn't happening.

Under the current circumstances, CBP Officers and Border Patrol Agents must apprehend hundreds to thousands of immigration violators each day, and process the cases of those they apprehend, to include issuing notices requiring an appearance before an immigration judge. Again, as there is no custody space, the hundreds to thousands apprehended each day by CBP