



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

April 1, 2026

The Honorable Summer L. Lee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Lee:

Thank you for your October 6, 2025 letter to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). I am responding on behalf of the Department.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) is the largest investigative agency within DHS and is a principal federal law enforcement component responsible for identifying, disrupting, and dismantling transnational criminal organizations and Foreign Terrorist Organizations that threaten the homeland. HSI's authorities and operations are focused on countering sophisticated criminal and terrorist networks responsible for the trafficking of fentanyl and other deadly narcotics, weapons smuggling, money laundering, human trafficking, and other threats to U.S. national security and public safety.

HSI employs a wide range of lawfully authorized investigative techniques and advanced analytical tools to uncover critical intelligence about cartel operations, illicit finance, communication networks, and supply chains, always with the goal of disrupting and ultimately dismantling Foreign Terrorist Organizations, particularly those involved in the trafficking of fentanyl. In response to the unprecedented lethality of fentanyl and the exploitation of digital platforms by transnational criminal organizations, I approved HSI's procurement and operational use of cutting-edge technological tools that address the specific challenges posed by the Foreign Terrorist Organizations' thriving exploitation of encrypted communication platforms.

In accordance with Executive Order 14093, dated March 27, 2023, *Prohibition on Use by the United States Government of Commercial Spyware that Poses Risks to National Security*, I certified that HSI's operational use of the specific tool does not pose significant security or counterintelligence risks, or significant risks of improper use by a foreign government or foreign person.

Any use of the technology will comply with constitutional requirements and be coordinated with the ICE Office of the Principal Legal Advisor. Further, use of the technology will align with and support the Homeland Security Task Force's strategic initiatives to identify, disrupt, and dismantle Foreign Terrorist Organizations, addressing the escalating fentanyl epidemic and safeguarding national security.

HSI is committed to upholding the rule of law, constitutional protections, and internal oversight standards in the application of every program, and this tool is no exception. DHS complies with all requirements set forth in Executive Order 14093 to ensure any technology is deployed pursuant to appropriate legal authorization, safeguards, and oversight.

Thank you again for your letter. Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact the ICE Office of Congressional Relations via email at CongressToICE@ice.dhs.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd Lyons", written in a cursive style.

Todd M. Lyons
Senior Official Performing the Duties of the Director
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

cc: The Honorable Shontel M. Brown
The Honorable Yassamin Ansari