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July 21, 2017

The Honorable John F. Kelly  
Secretary of Homeland Security  
Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, D.C. 20528

The Honorable Thomas D. Homan  
Acting Director  
United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement  
500 12th St., S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20536

Dear Mr. Secretary and Mr. Homan,

I have seen reports that U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement will begin targeting 16- and 17-year-olds who they suspect to be gang members as early as this weekend. This radical change from established department policy is far-reaching and deeply concerning.

I request that you cease the implementation of any such policy, and I further request the opportunity to speak with you as soon as possible regarding the application of overly-broad criteria for identifying gang involvement to initiate removal proceedings.

I have appreciated the opportunity to speak with you and your office in the past, yet this memo, as reported, seems to go against the intentions that you stated. This memo has the potential to undercut the right to due process of children living in the United States. It is an attack on constitutional rights and liberties and employs overly-vague criteria which could put innocent children in jeopardy.

As this matter is of an extremely time-sensitive nature, I await your prompt response.

Sincerely,

TONY CARDENAS  
Member of Congress