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AND RELATED AGENCIES SUBCOMMITTEE

June 13, 2018

The Honorable Kirstjen M. Nielsen
Secretary of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Nielsen:

As you know, there was a raid recently conducted by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) at Corso's Flower and Garden Center in both Sandusky and Castalia, Ohio. This raid consisted of 200 heavily armed officers who, during the raid, forcibly detained 114 workers. Reports suggest the raid was carried out in an unnecessarily aggressive and disruptive manner that subsequently traumatized an entire community.

I write today to seek assurances that none of the detained individuals will be deported without full due process, including access to an attorney, in immigration court. These detained workers, irrespective of where they have come from, what their names are, or what language they speak, deserve a fair and open process. There should be no exceptions.

Furthermore, the people being detained are fathers, mothers, sons and daughters. It is unconscionable to simply rip these people away from their children and families who may depend on them for survival. They have adapted to American culture and have contributed to the betterment of our country and economy in a variety of ways.

I hope your Department will consider the big picture in situations such as these and understand that tearing families apart via detainment and deportations often causes more trouble and expense for the U.S. than it is preventing. Thank you for your consideration of this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Tim Ryan
Member of Congress

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