

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

February 24, 2025

The Honorable Kristi Noem  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
2801 Nebraska Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20528

Secretary Noem:

I write to raise serious concerns about reports federal agents harassed students in my community. Harassing and frightening children does not make New Mexico safer or help law enforcement get criminals off our streets.

On Friday, February 21, I was notified that a bus full of Las Cruces area high school students were harassed by federal agents. The students were on board a charter bus on their way to a swim meet in Albuquerque. According to reports, while at a Border Patrol checkpoint, agents escalated the encounter because the driver was not able to answer their questions in English. The agents proceeded to board the bus full of students, ignore the coaches' attempts to deescalate the situation, and demand information from the students. This encounter left the student rattled and shaken.

Incidents like this, along with reports of harassment of Tribal members<sup>1</sup> and other American citizens based on profiling, are unacceptable. Additionally, the Administration recently revoked protections against enforcement raids in sensitive locations, including schools, churches, childcare centers, and hospitals. Rather than increasing public safety, unchecked and overaggressive actions erode public trust, spread fear among our communities, and put American citizens in the crosshairs of unconstitutional and ineffective enforcement efforts.

I demand that you provide my office with a full accounting and explanation of this incident, a written policy for how agents are to address minors, and any steps your agency will take to prevent such events from occurring in the future. Our children should not live in fear while on their way to a swim meet, football game, or in the classroom.

I look forward to your prompt reply.

Sincerely,



Gabe Vasquez  
Member of Congress

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<sup>1</sup> <https://mescaleroapachetribe.com/22804/how-to-respond-if-confronted-by-u-s-immigration-agents/>