



# WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P. O. Box 7882 Madison, WI 53707-7882

---

February 20, 2014

John Sandweg, Acting Director  
U.S. Immigration & Customs Enforcement  
500 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington, D.C. 20536

Dear Acting Director Sandweg,

As legislators representing the people of the state of Wisconsin, we write to you regarding extremely troubling and intimidating conduct by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents taking place in courthouses throughout Wisconsin. Through news reports and conversations with constituents, lawyers, and community members, we have learned that ICE agents have been interrogating and detaining Wisconsin residents. We are tremendously concerned by this conduct. We write to not only bring this matter to your attention and urge you to conduct a thorough investigation, but to ask you to immediately bring a halt to these actions at all Wisconsin courthouses.

It is our understanding that ICE agents have routinely racially profiled Latino and non-English speaking individuals at courthouses in Milwaukee, Racine, Dane, Ozaukee, Waukesha, Kenosha, Walworth, Winnebago, Washington, and Rock Counties. These actions have prevented residents from complying with obligations to pay traffic fines or other citations and appear for court hearings. ICE's actions have also affected victims of crime and reduced their willingness to utilize court services or contact law enforcement, consequences that negatively impact public safety for the entire community.

We are deeply concerned about the practices being used on so-called "Spanish Days" throughout Wisconsin. The racial components of these intimidating practices are troubling. Additionally, these practices undermine the integrity of our court system if Wisconsin residents worry that they will be racially profiled when they come to court to adjudicate traffic, municipal, and family matters. These practices by ICE agents have generated fear of our courts and law enforcement officers, a fear that greatly impinges upon our constitutionally protected right to access the courts.

We take these allegations very seriously and ask that you investigate these practices and immediately halt these actions at all Wisconsin courthouses.

We appreciate your attention to this serious situation and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



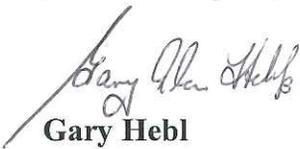
**Cory Mason**  
State Representative  
66<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



**Mandela Barnes**  
State Representative  
11<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



**Eric Genrich**  
State Representative  
90<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



**Gary Hebl**  
State Representative  
46<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



**Gordon Hintz**  
State Representative  
54<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



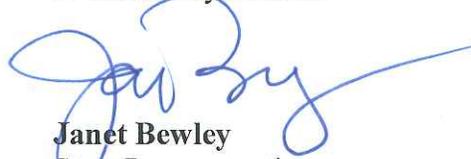
**Frederick Kessler**  
State Representative  
12<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



**Tod Ohnstad**  
State Representative  
65<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



**JoCasta Zamarripa**  
State Representative  
8<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



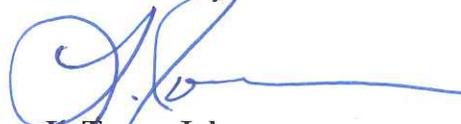
**Janet Bewley**  
State Representative  
74<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



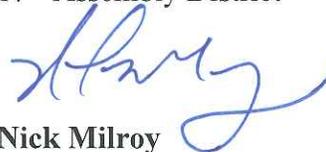
**Evan Goyke**  
State Representative  
18<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



**Dianne Hesselbein**  
State Representative  
79<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



**LaTonya Johnson**  
State Representative  
17<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



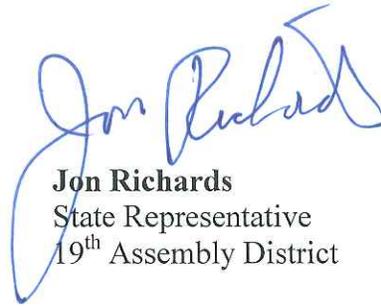
**Nick Milroy**  
State Representative  
73<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District



**Sandy Pasch**  
State Representative  
10<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



**Sondy Pope**  
State Representative  
80<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



**Jon Richards**  
State Representative  
19<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



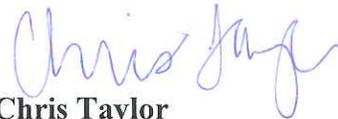
**Daniel Riemer**  
State Representative  
7<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



**Melissa Sargent**  
State Representative  
48<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



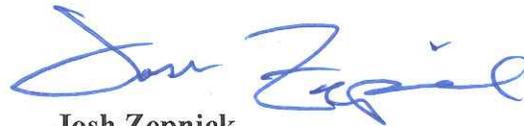
**Christine Sinicki**  
State Representative  
20<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



**Chris Taylor**  
State Representative  
76<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



**Leon Young**  
State Representative  
16<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



**Josh Zepnick**  
State Representative  
9<sup>th</sup> Assembly District