

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 20, 2026

Honorable Mark Amodei  
Chair  
Subcommittee on Homeland Security  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC  
20515

Honorable Henry Cuellar  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Homeland Security  
House Committee on  
Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Amodei and Ranking Member Cuellar:

As the Homeland Security Subcommittee develops its Fiscal Year 2027 appropriations bill, we respectfully request the inclusion of funding and related report language for the Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers (FLETC), in collaboration with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, to provide tribal government competency training for federal immigration enforcement officers.

As immigration enforcement officers, including U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers, carry out their missions, it is vital that these officers understand how to best work with Tribal members they may encounter. All U.S. agencies, including immigration enforcement agencies, must respect Tribal Sovereignty and understand the government-to-government relationship that the federal government has with Tribal nations. Tribal governmental competency training for immigration enforcement officers could help achieve a better understanding of this unique relationship and reduce the number of Tribal members who are wrongfully subject to immigration enforcement measures.

We request the following bill text under FLETC:

“of which \$2,000,000 shall be used by FLETC, in collaboration with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, for the required training of federal immigration enforcement officers and federal law enforcement officers who have been detailed for immigration enforcement efforts for training on tribal relations, acceptable forms of tribal identification, and government-to-government relations with Indian tribes.”

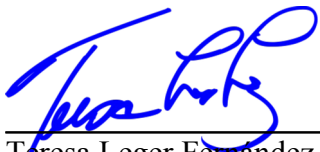
Additionally, we request the following report language:

“The Committee is aware of several instances where immigration officers have failed to recognize tribal identification cards as proof of U.S. citizenship. To avoid such future instances, the bill provides \$2 million for the Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers (FLETC) to provide required training to immigration enforcement officers and federal law enforcement officers who are expected to participate in immigration enforcement activities on the unique nature of the government-to-government relationship between Tribal Nations and the Federal government. The Committee directs FLETC to develop and administer this training in collaboration with the Bureau of Indian Affairs to ensure that federal immigration enforcement officers have an understanding of this relationship and the cultural intricacies of interacting with Tribal members. This training shall include, but not be limited to, recognizing names of Tribes in areas where officers and agents are operating and recognizing and accepting Tribal identification and Certificates of Degree of Indian Blood. FLETC shall provide a briefing to the Committee within 180 days of enactment on the status of such training.”

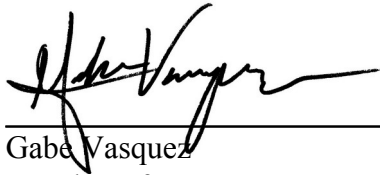
Congress has a legal and moral duty to uphold our nation's trust responsibility to Indian tribes. Training for immigration enforcement officers would help us uphold and respect our government-to-government relationship with tribes.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



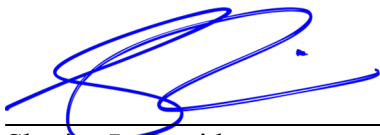
Teresa Leger Fernandez  
Member of Congress



Gabe Vasquez  
Member of Congress



Darren Soto  
Member of Congress



Sharice L. Davids  
Member of Congress  
Kansas Third District



Greg Stanton  
Member of Congress



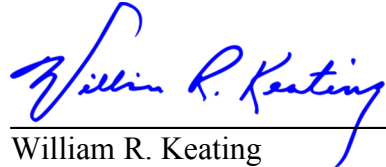
Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



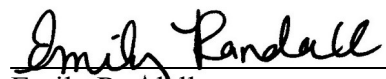
Richard E. Neal  
Member of Congress



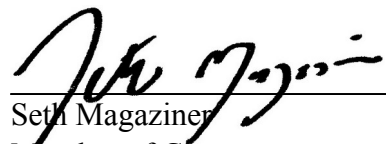
Yassamin Ansari  
Member of Congress



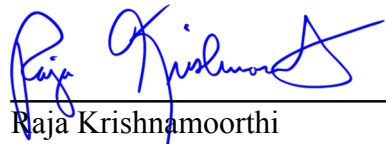
William R. Keating  
Member of Congress



Emily Randall  
Member of Congress



Seth Magaziner  
Member of Congress



Raja Krishnamoorthi  
Member of Congress