



Tips when talking about Trump's Deportation Force

This guide provides sample language you can use to talk to your neighbors and friends, write letters to your local papers, and communicate directly with your Members of Congress at town halls, in-district meetings, and by email, phone or on social media. There are a lot of misleading, hurtful and untrue things said about immigrants and border communities. It's natural to want to refute that information, but social science research has shown that repeating misinformation actually reinforces those messages. That's why it's important to frame your conversations affirmatively. We've provided examples below. Feel free to make them your own.

Fabric of Society

The promise of fundamental equality is written into the United States and New Mexico's constitutions. We haven't always lived up to that promise, but people have united throughout our history to ensure our government treats people fairly regardless of where they were born, who they love, or their religious beliefs. As a border state, New Mexico is among the most diverse states in the nation. We understand the richness and beauty of honoring the cultures and histories of families native to this region and newcomers from around the world.

That's why Trump's proposal to build a wall is so offensive to our values. His wall isn't about national security, it's about fueling racial and ethnic bias against immigrants and border communities. Americans are far more pragmatic and humane than this. Three-quarters of Americans support legalization over deportation. These directives hurt not just the immigrants who are directly affected, but spread fear across communities nationwide, seeking to break the social fabric that makes this nation strong and great. Our communities are strongest when everyone's basic rights and dignity are respected. That's why we need New Mexico's Senators and Representatives in Congress to take a stand for investing in programs that reflect our values and strengthen the vibrancy of border communities.

Bias-free and Transparent Policing

In New Mexico, we know there are two ways to police a community. We banned biased-based policing under state law long ago because it offends our values of equity and justice and is ineffective. Discriminatory and military-style policing has no place in our communities. Yet, Border Patrol agents stop and frisk border residents on a daily basis during commutes to work, to school, or to go to the movies at interior checkpoints located in the 100 mile border zone. Singling out someone based solely on the color of their skin for invasive questioning, lengthy detentions in secondary inspection, and humiliating searches is fundamentally un-American.

Trump's plans to assemble a massive number of new ICE and Border Patrol agents, and state and local police, into an undertrained and inexperienced deportation force is a perfect formula for large-scale racial profiling and other constitutional violations, including unlawful searches and detentions. Senators Udall and Heinrich need to be champions for civil rights by rejecting

Trump's request for more border and immigration agents, and instead invest in expanding oversight, transparency, and accountability for the agents we already have.

Strengthening Public Safety for All New Mexicans

Our communities are safest when we invest in education, healthcare, and creating good jobs that provide opportunity for everyone. Law enforcement, particularly our local police, play an important role in strengthening public safety, but it requires building trust with communities. Studies show that cities that use of their limited resources towards strengthening public safety rather than enforcing federal immigration law enjoy lower crime rates. Border communities are also home to our nation's safest cities based on FBI data.

Trump's directives, if funded and implemented, will fundamentally undermine our public safety. His orders and budget lay out a blueprint to tear apart families and leave U.S. citizens without parents, children, husbands and wives. In New Mexico, we've already seen ICE agents arrest victims or witnesses of crimes who tried to access justice in our courts. After raids in Las Cruces, public schools saw a 60% increase in absences—2,000 students stayed home from school out of fear. It's not who we are as a country to rule by fear, confusion and cruelty. Congress must reject Trump's budget proposals to expand military-style policing of our nation's safest communities and commandeer local police into supporting his deportation force.

Fiscal Responsibility and Repeating the Mistakes of the Past

The United States already spends more on border and immigration enforcement than all other federal law enforcement agencies *combined*. In recent years, apprehensions by Border Patrol have remained at their lowest levels since the Nixon Administration. To put staffing in perspective, Border Patrol agents on our southwest border have made less than one arrest per month in 2017.

In the mid-2000s, the Border Patrol doubled in size in less than a decade without commensurate investment in oversight and accountability. When you rapidly expand a police force of heavily armed, poorly trained agents who believe they answer to no one, human and civil rights violations will ensue. CBP officers and agents have killed over 50 people since January 2010, including dozens of U.S. citizens and unarmed teens that Border Patrol agents shot multiple times through the back. And not one of these agents has faced public consequences.

Politico Magazine called Border Patrol the nation's most "out-of-control" police force in its investigation of the agency's culture of corruption, sexual abuse, and excessive force. Peer law enforcement professionals convened by a DHS advisory committee that included participation of now DHS Secretary, General John Kelly, also concluded that CBP's disciplinary system is broken.

President Trump's proposal to expand Border Patrol and "take the handcuffs off" an agency with a history of racial profiling and excessive force will further erode the freedoms and rights of tens of millions of people who call our northern and southern border communities home. New Mexico's Congressional delegation must resist Trump's proposal to repeat the mistakes of the past and refuse to waste a penny of taxpayer dollars on his deportation force. Until Border Patrol demonstrates a commitment to operating with the trust of communities, Congress can't trust CBP

or the Trump Administration with any more resources — no more boots, no wall, and no detention beds.