

If You Can't Fix It, Break It

Here we go again. Another shutdown and more meager asks by the Dems: No masks for ICE agents; judicial warrants for ICE raids; body cams; etc. Not good enough. Does anyone think that Trump, Stephen Miller, Tom Homan, or Christi **Noem** will follow any of these laws, even if our cowardly congressional representatives would pass them (which they won't)? Congress or the courts will not stop them. The Supreme Court has become a joke. Even they won't stop the evil that has descended on our country. So, what do we do?

Once again, the Democrats have some leverage. We can shut DHS down and demand something **big and bold**: that the vast amount of money designated for ICE be repurposed for health care, affordable housing, SNAP, and every other service the Trump administration has laid waste to. Will this work? Probably not. But it will make more and more people aware of the fast-moving train running off the rails, making America no longer the land of the free. But we still have to be "the home of the brave". We have to keep denying funding for DHS long enough to make as many people as possible realize that Trump and his sinister cabinet are the ones causing the pain from a non-functioning TSA, FEMA, and Coast Guard. In the last funding showdown, we made health care front and center in the minds of so many more Americans. We accomplished this by shutting down the government for 43 days, and it was very successful. We have to use the same strategy and cut off the money for DHS for as long as it takes to make more and more Americans aware of the horrors of ICE.

And let's not forget that if we give more money to DHS, it will be used to build ICE detention centers to hold hundreds of thousands of mostly innocent prisoners. Prisoners who are being beaten, denied medical care, given undrinkable water, and denied legal counsel. Prisoners who are five-year-old children, pregnant women, people with cancer, and those with other life-threatening diseases. Prisoners who are American citizens, who were taken just for peacefully protesting. Prisoners who were arrested just for being brown, black, or having a Spanish accent. And now they're gunning for the Press. More money for DHS will be used to aid and abet Donald Trump and Stephen Miller in building more prisons for profit. And I'm sure Trump loyalists will find a way to grift off the suffering of thousands and thousands of innocent men, women, and children.

ICE is broken, and no tinkering around the edges or feckless guidelines will fix it. We've all heard the saying: "If it ain't broke, don't fix it". But with ICE, "We can't fix it, we have to break it". That's our mission. Over the next few years, we have to use every tool in our toolbox to say "mission accomplished".

By Lou Sones