



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 19, 2026

**Statement from the Skylar Duensing for Congress Campaign:
Clarifying Immigration Enforcement Quotes in The Daily Herald**

A Daily Herald article published February 18, 2026, comparing Republican candidates in Illinois' 6th Congressional District, quoted part of my recent interview (Tuesday, February 17, 2026) **out of context** regarding immigration priorities. While I appreciate the interview, I believe that some **clarification is needed here**:

During my interview, I stated that ICE and border agents must **prioritize apprehending “violent criminals, gang members,” rapists, pedophiles, traffickers, and other public safety threats**—because protecting American communities is the top priority when resources are limited. When asked a follow-up about migrants who may “just want to achieve the American Dream,” I was clear: **“Entering America illegally is breaking federal immigration law,”** regardless of personal motivations or intentions. **Breaking our immigration laws should not and will not be tolerated.** I went on to highlight that enforcement must be firm, consistent, and applied to all illegal entrants, balancing compassion and enforcement while encouraging existing DHS self-deportation incentives available for those who leave voluntarily.

This is the same targeted approach President Trump and Border Czar Tom Homan have championed: prioritize deporting the “worst of the worst” criminal illegal aliens first, while upholding and enforcing immigration law for everyone here illegally.

Watch the full 3-minute exchange for complete context: <https://youtu.be/IUrXP-nCo64>

Our nation must have secure borders, safe communities, and leadership that puts the **American People First.** My immigration policies remain in alignment with those of President Trump and Tom Homan: enforce the laws, prioritize threats, keep our communities safe, and restore trust in the system.

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