

Response to Congressman Chris Pappas

Dear Congressman Pappas,

My Military Service and ICE

I am a retired Air Force veteran, and I am very proud of my military service and of the people who serve our country. I am also proud of ICE, Border Patrol, DHS, and the many public servants who work in these agencies. Many of these people are veterans themselves, and they are doing difficult and dangerous work to protect the United States.

My concerns about immigration enforcement are about national security, public safety, organized crime, trafficking, fentanyl, labor exploitation, border security, foreign influence, and the ability of Americans to live safely in their own communities. The United States has immigration laws, and those laws should be enforced and respected. Our homeland security teams cannot do their job if they are kept from doing their job and for this reason I am very concerned about American safety.

National Security and Public Safety

There are serious criminal networks operating across borders, including Mexican cartels, Chinese-linked criminal organizations, and Russian criminal networks. These networks are connected to drugs, fentanyl, trafficking, money laundering, fraud, weapons, labor exploitation, and other criminal activity. This is why border security and federal law enforcement are national security issues and not simply political arguments about immigration or immigrant rights.

I use the term “triad” to describe the overlapping concerns involving Chinese-linked criminal organizations, Mexican cartels, and Russian criminal or political networks. I also see a larger wheel of harm involving fentanyl, trafficking, fraud, organized crime, foreign influence, labor exploitation, weapons, and threats to American communities. All of these issues can affect ordinary Americans who are simply trying to live safely and peacefully.

I also believe Americans should be able to raise concerns about foreign influence and organized crime without being accused of racism. Foreign criminal organizations are not American and are often composed of people from different nationalities and ethnic backgrounds. This is the nature of the beast we are all facing.

Modern Warfare and WW3

The current national security environment also needs to be looked at as modern warfare. Information operations, organized crime, foreign influence, cyber activity, economic pressure, trafficking networks, drugs, and attacks on public trust are all causing severe harm to

Americans. The environment is nearing WW3 as multiple components of conflict are occurring at the same time.

Without there yet being a formal declaration of World War III, the United States is facing a complicated security environment where threats cross borders and enter communities in ways that can be difficult to see without specialized skills. This is where our military and ICE enter the picture. Americans need to address and be able to talk about those threats openly and without the constant judgment and berating of our national security teams.

These attacks against our military are also, a form of warfare.

Agricultural Labor and Modern Slavery

Another major concern is agricultural labor exploitation. Farmworkers, including temporary foreign workers, can be vulnerable to wage theft, unsafe working conditions, retaliation, trafficking, and other forms of exploitation. The Department of Labor has documented significant enforcement activity involving H-2A agricultural workers and has specifically recognized that these workers can remain vulnerable to human trafficking and retaliation.

The issue of labor exploitation is closely connected to immigration enforcement. When employers or criminal organizations use immigration status to intimidate or exploit workers, those workers can become trapped in a system that benefits the people committing the abuse. Americans and foreign workers both deserve protection from trafficking, wage theft, violence, and exploitation.

ICE rescues people from modern exploitation and slavery. It is not unusual to see children forced into slavery and exploited on farms.

ICE Arrests and Criminal Activity

DHS stated in 2025 that 75 percent of ICE arrests during the first 100 days involved people with criminal convictions or pending criminal charges. ICE enforcement also includes people who have violated immigration law without criminal convictions or pending criminal charges. The truth is that they violated the law, laws that are there to protect the American people, our communities, and our society from fraud and exploitation.

America belongs to Americans, not foreigners with no connection to our values, traditions, heritage, or who we are.

Public Servants and Line-of-Duty Deaths

Public servants put their lives on the line while serving the American people. Every 1.9 days, a public servant dies in the line of duty. These deaths represent real people, real families, and people who accepted the responsibility of serving their communities and country.

Law enforcement officers, military members, firefighters, emergency workers, and other public servants can face serious dangers while performing their duties. These workers are not the

enemy and never have been portrayed as the enemy; the only thing that changed was Biden's open-border policy and historic invasion. This issue of immigrant violence against Americans is so severe that it has changed the cultural landscape of America in almost every state.

This is disturbing and represents a crime against humanity and qualifies as war. We are grateful to our public servants. They should be thanked, not disparaged.

The propaganda against the American people must stop.

Acadian Heritage and Maine

There is also a personal historical reason that the phrase "nation of immigrants" does not tell the whole story for every American family. My family has Native roots in northern New England, and Acadian history is part of our family history. Acadian families experienced displacement, genocide, forced diaspora, religious and cultural conflict, and the struggle to preserve their communities.

The history of the Acadians in Maine is part of the rich history of this region. French settlers established a European settlement at St. Croix Island in 1604, and during the period known as the Grand Dérangement from 1755 to 1764, more than 10,000 Acadian men, women, and children were forcibly removed by British authorities. The British were the colonials and immigrants of this time; they forced their way in and chose to harm the Native population of this region.

Maine continues to recognize Acadian culture and its place in the history of the state. We are fighting to sustain our communities and to keep American culture, American. Unfortunately, today's experience is a Modern form of Grand Derangement and is nearly identical to the harms caused to the Acadians in the 1700s and 1800s. Acadians and the Francophone community are now facing a grave repeat of history.

H.R. 7163 and Federal Law Enforcement

I also have concerns about legislation such as H.R. 7163 and proposals that would change how federal enforcement resources are allocated. Local law enforcement needs resources, but that should not come at the expense of the federal agencies responsible for immigration enforcement and national security. Federal, state, and local agencies all have different responsibilities, and cooperation between them is important.

The United States needs law enforcement at the local level as well as federal agencies such as ICE, Border Patrol, and DHS. Cutting one part of the system does not automatically solve the problems being addressed by another part of the system. The focus should remain on public safety, which is why I support both ICE and the police in combating this historic invasion, forced demographic and cultural alteration, and the harms against our local communities. I want to be clear that the views of many Americans are being suppressed by the political foreign left, and this has become evident through organizations such as the DSA,

ACLU and immigrant right's organizations. The reality is dark, grim, and unfortunately, the less we do, the more it will harm our American communities.

WW3 must be curtailed, or there will be no America, and our home will be forever altered. This is a choice we all have to make: Do you support Americans and saving our country from historic invasion and foreign war, or will you betray the American people and watch our home front suffer, degrade, and become culturally replaced by foreign nations that only want to harm us?

Political Party and Public Service

I have been a lifelong Democrat, but I do not agree with the modern positions taken by the Democratic Party which today are no different from the CCP or Soviet Communists, and this has become evident through the DSA. To declare support for open-border policies is to declare support for WW3 against the American people.

Closing

We require strong national security, secure borders, enforcement of our laws, and protection for American communities. We require criminal organizations, traffickers, employers who exploit workers, and anyone involved in foreign criminal activity to be investigated and held accountable. America is not a free for all for foreigners to warfare the American people.

This is why I support the brave public servants who put their lives on the line every day. I support veterans, law enforcement, Border Patrol, ICE, DHS, firefighters, emergency workers, and others who serve the public. They should be able to do their jobs without being demonized for enforcing the laws of the United States.

I am asking you to look at these issues through the lens of national security, public safety, labor exploitation, organized crime, foreign influence, and the protection of American communities. I am also asking that the concerns of Americans who support ICE and federal law enforcement be taken seriously, even when those views differ from yours or from the positions of other members of Congress. We need ICE to do their job; this isn't really a debate or a bipartisan issue, it is an issue of which side of the war we are on.

Sincerely,

Dannielle E. Courchene
Retired Air Force Veteran