

small businesses. From New York Apple Sales to Imperial Pools, businesses in New York's capital region and across the Nation have benefited greatly from the work of the Export-Import Bank, and there is absolutely no reason it should fall victim to the same culture of politics and brinkmanship that has cloaked this body for the past few years.

There are 1,053 business organizations, including the United States Chamber of Commerce and the Capital Region Chambers of Commerce, that have urged Republican House leadership to renew Ex-Im.

A majority of this House, including 180 of my Democratic colleagues who have signed the discharge petition to reauthorize the Bank, have expressed support to renew Ex-Im.

All we need now is a vote. Our small businesses, our workers, and our taxpayers deserve it. Let's make it happen.

NO PERSON IS ABOVE THE LAW

(Mr. YOUNG of Iowa asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in search of an answer to a very simple question.

Assistant Secretary Sarah Saldana, the Director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, ICE, appeared before the House Appropriations Homeland Security Subcommittee on April 15. I serve on the subcommittee, and I questioned the Assistant Secretary about President Obama's comments he made in February of this year.

The President said: "If somebody is working for ICE and there is a policy and they don't follow the policy, there are going to be consequences to it." He was commenting on ICE agents' following his directives and guidelines.

I used this opportunity to tell the Assistant Secretary that, if I had office policies that were contrary to the law, I would understand if my employees did not want to follow them. "I would expect them to follow the law first," I said.

Director Saldana interrupted me to say: "That is where you and I probably have a fundamental disagreement."

America was founded on the principle that no person is above the law. I take that very seriously. The culture problems at ICE run very deep, but I think they start at the top.

My colleagues and I decided this was unacceptable and that we needed to investigate her statement and philosophy further, so we followed up with a letter to Assistant Secretary Saldana on May 15, asking for clarification.

I should note we asked for a response by June 5; yet, 31 days since the request and 10 days since the deadline, we have not seen a response from the Assistant Secretary. This should be deeply troubling to all in this House.

Mr. Speaker, I submit a copy of this letter for the RECORD.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,

Washington, DC, May 15, 2015.

SARAH R. SALDANA,
Assistant Secretary, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Washington, DC.

DEAR ASSISTANT SECRETARY SALDANA: We write to request additional information and clarification regarding your recent testimony before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security. We are greatly troubled by this administration's directives attempting to supersede immigration enforcement protocols laid out in federal law. Just as troubling is President Obama's assertion that Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents who do not follow his directives will be held "answerable to the head of the Department of Homeland Security," and "there will be consequences to it."

When questioned during the hearing about your actions to implement the President's policies, you stated that you have a "fundamental disagreement" that ICE agents should follow federal law if a superior has instructed them not to. We want to be clear: your agency is not above the law, and you and your employees are expected to uphold the laws of this country, as you have sworn to.

We have heard reports of agents who face retribution or threats for following the law. ICE agents are diligently working to enforce the laws of this nation. They should not be worried about facing disciplinary action for faithfully executing their duty.

We write today seeking specific answers to these questions on ICE's actions to implement these policies.

(1) We would like to know the legal rationale your agency has used to justify holding executive memos as superior to the plain language of federal statute and how that allows you to punish agents who are following the law.

(2) We also request that you provide us with the protocols agents have been instructed to follow dealing with the President's directives and current guidelines on the disciplinary actions that agents face for not following them.

(3) To date, has ICE taken any adverse action against any career employee for not following the President's policy and what are the details of that action?

(4) Lastly, if these executive actions are ultimately found to be illegal through the current litigation challenging them and struck down by a federal court, how will punished agents receive restitution in full from ICE?

You are responsible for making sure these agents are equipped with the resources they need to do this, not threaten them with punishment for it. We ask that you respond to these questions by June 5th.

Sincerely,

DAVID YOUNG,
Member of Congress.
JOHN CULBERSON,
Member of Congress.
CHUCK FLEISCHMANN,
Member of Congress.
JOHN CARTER,
Member of Congress.
DR. ANDY HARRIS,
Member of Congress.

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS: THE MISSING BLACK MALE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members be given 5 days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, let me begin by thanking the members of the Congressional Black Caucus who are joining me here tonight.

The topic of tonight's discussion is: the missing Black male. Tonight, as a caucus, we will address the issues affecting Black males, including incarceration, health, the increasing suicide rate among Black youth, and the missing Black male in our society.

It was recently reported by The New York Times that 1.5 million African American men are missing. What do we mean when we say 1.5 million Black men are missing? As we speak, hundreds of thousands of Black men are sitting in prisons throughout this Nation. Others have died from homicide—the leading cause of death for young Black men—and from diseases that disproportionately impact African American males.

Then there are others, like Freddie Gray, Michael Brown, Tamir Rice, and Eric Garner, who are no longer with us because of excessive force by police which has cut their lives short.

It is clear that our law enforcement system and criminal justice system aren't working for African Americans and other minorities. It is also clear that we need a new approach into other areas, including reducing health disparities among African American men and boys. Tonight, we will diagnose the problems behind America's 1.5 million missing African American men and help identify solutions to this national problem.

While African Americans make up 14 percent of the U.S. population, they comprise 38 percent of those in the U.S. prison population and 60 percent of those in solitary confinement. In 2010, African American men were six times as likely as White men to be incarcerated in Federal, State, and local jails.

Mr. Speaker, this is an issue that is plaguing the African American community, as we see a disproportionate number of African American men who are incarcerated in this Nation. We are trying to figure out why they make up 14 percent of the population and 60 percent of those incarcerated. It just doesn't add up.

Right now, Mr. Speaker, I would like to introduce the chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, who has allowed me to anchor this hour.

It is my honor to yield to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD).

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. First, let me begin by thanking the gentleman from New Jersey for his leadership and for his willingness to lead this hour, not only tonight, but for agreeing to do it