

Karen Bass

**CONGRESSWOMAN KAREN BASS
REMARKS AND QUESTIONS
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE HEARING**
Oversight of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
Witness Director Sarah Saldaña
Thursday, September 22, 2016
2237 Rayburn House Office Building
10:00 AM

Good Morning, Chairman Goodlatte and Ranking Member Conyers.

Mr. Chairman,

Our immigration system is broken, yet we cannot seem to agree on how to fix it. While we debate this issue, thousands of children and families are waiting in the shadows on our soil. The history of our nation is a colorful one it includes those who arrived on our shores against their will, as well as those who arrived to escape persecution, flee violence, or in search of a better life.

Unaccompanied Minors

ICE has been deporting a record number of unaccompanied minors who for the most part have been given little or no legal representation. An image of targeting children would result in ICE living up to its acronym by sending a shiver down the spines of undocumented families.

Aging Out

I have heard troubling stories of ICE picking up young people at bus stops while they were waiting to go to high school. This gives the impression that ICE is counting down the days until a young person turns 18, and then making them a priority for arrest and deportation.

Question 1: Director Saldaña, are you familiar with the “NC6”? They are six high school students in North Carolina who arrived as minors and who, according to news reports, were arrested by ICE not long after they turned 18.

Question 2: In my opinion, students attending high school, some of whom dream of college, should not be our top priority for removal from this country. What is ICE’s policy? Does ICE track or monitor adolescents and wait for them to reach 18? Does ICE utilize any other means for determining when an undocumented minor has turned 18? If so, what are the means currently being utilized? Is this standard policy? What is the purpose for this type of monitoring?

Legal Representation

Question 3: What is ICE’s policy regarding legal representation for unaccompanied minors and any undocumented minors? Between the years of in 2015-2015 How many minors has ICE referred to Child Welfare agencies after their parents have been deported?