

Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal (WA-07)

House Judiciary Committee

Markup of H.R. 175, the “Deport Alien Gang Members Act”

June 3, 2026

M. Chair, I move to strike the last word.

I strongly oppose this bill, which would give the Trump administration nearly limitless discretion to label any noncitizen as a gang member and make them inadmissible or deportable from the country with little to no evidence. The Trump Administration has falsely accused countless innocent people of being gang members, using that label as an excuse to ship them off to torture chambers and even killing them.

Let’s start with Kilmar Abrego Garcia, Andry Hernandez Romero, and the 150 or so Venezuelan men the Trump Administration shipped off to a Salvadoran gulag in spite of a court order. The Trump Administration claimed these men were gang members, yet admitted that Mr. Abrego Garcia was deported due to an “administrative error.” They also claimed Andry was a gang member. Their only alleged evidence was a benign tattoo of two crowns, one symbolizing his father and one symbolizing his mother. Or we could talk about Jerce Reyes Berrios accused of being a gang member for having a tattoo of a soccer ball topped with a crown, which signifies his favorite soccer club Real Madrid. I could go on and on.

And folks may remember the militarized raid on an apartment building in Chicago in the dead of night that resulted in U.S. citizens—many of them African American—dragged out of bed, children—some naked—zip tied and detained for hours.

The Trump Administration claimed the building was “filled” with Tren de Aragua gang members and said they captured two “confirmed” gang members. Stephen Miller claimed it was “one of the most successful law enforcement operations that we’ve seen in this country.”¹ Yet eight months later, prosecutors have not filed a single criminal charge against anyone who was arrested nor have they revealed any evidence showing anyone actually belonged to the gang.²

In fact, court filings have shown the real reason for the raid was “based on intelligence that there were illegal aliens unlawfully occupying apartments.”³ Nothing about dangerous gang members. Just more dragnet racial profiling by this Administration. And now, 18 former residents of that building, including U.S. citizens, are suing the Trump Administration for \$90 million plus property damages.⁴ I cannot emphasize the untold damage from this raid, including to U.S. citizens who no longer trust their government.

I am disgusted that the majority looked at this abysmal record and decided that what the Administration needed was even more power.

It feels a bit like Groundhog Day, given we already marked up a similar bill back in November. That legislation had the exact same definition of a “criminal gang” as today’s bill and would have allowed DHS to place most noncitizens in a fast track removal procedure with no due process. Since being marked up over 6 months ago, that bill has not come to the House floor for a vote.

So why are wasting this Committee’s time with another similar bill? Because this majority is out of ideas and looking for anyway to score cheap political points in an election year by recycling the same tired talking points and legislation to paint all immigrants as criminals and gang members.

We are not going to take the bait.

Instead of taking up this cruel bill, we should be conducting oversight on the Trump Administration’s many abuses of authority from destroying our immigration system, trampling our constitutional rights, and destroying our country, families and economy.

We have had no hearings to discuss how DHS officers killed two U.S. citizens in cold blood in Minnesota, beat and detained countless U.S. citizens for exercising their First Amendment rights, and broke down doors of U.S. citizens without a warrant in violation of the Fourth Amendment. We know of at least one U.S. citizen who has been arrested by ICE three times despite repeatedly informing agents he was a U.S. citizen. Another 18-year-old U.S. citizen with terminal cancer spent the last weeks of his life begging ICE to release his parents so he could see them before he died. They reunited one day before he died.

And we have the particularly horrific story that emerged just a few weeks ago, where ICE deported Wendy Hernandez Reyes without her three-year old U.S. citizen child Orlin, despite her pleas to take her son with her. Orlin ended up going to his abusive uncle, who murdered the child. The autopsy report showed Orlin’s tiny body was burned, beaten, and sexually abused.

And that is just what they have done to Americans.

ICE is also subjecting hundreds of parents and children to months in immigration prisons, conducted senseless deportations of military veterans, separated families, massively increased immigration detention, resulting in a record 48 deaths, including 10 deaths by suicide, in ICE detention since President Trump took office.

Despite all of this, Republicans have refused to stop these illegal, unconstitutional and cruel policies. In fact, with bills like the one today, and their plan to give ICE and Border Patrol an additional \$70 billion through reconciliation with no oversight or accountability, Republicans are doubling down on the administration’s cruel agenda.

I urge my colleagues to reject this bill and I yield back.

¹ Melissa Sanchez, Jodi S. Cohen, *et al.*, “*I Lost Everything*”: *Venezuelans Were Rounded Up in a Dramatic Midnight Raid but Never Charged With a Crime*, PROPUBLICA (Nov. 13, 2025) <https://www.propublica.org/article/chicago-venezuela-immigration-ice-fbi-raids-no-criminal-charges>.

² *Id.*

³ Melissa Sanchez and Jodi Cohen, *The Real Story Behind the Midnight Immigration Raid on a Chicago Apartment Building*, ProPublica (Feb. 4, 2026), <https://www.propublica.org/article/chicago-venezuela-immigration-ice-raid-landlord-tren-de-aragua>.

⁴ Hannah Meisel, *Ex-residents of Chicago Apartment Building Targeted in Massive Immigration Raid Seek Millions*, ABC7-Eyewitness News (May, 15, 2026), <https://abc7chicago.com/post/ex-residents-south-shore-chicago-apartment-building-targeted-massive-immigration-raid-seek-millions-damages/19107787/>.