

## **Charles Marino Testimony on “Threats to ICE Operations”**

Chairman Van Drew, Ranking Member Crockett, and Members of the Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to appear today to testify regarding the numerous current threats to ICE Operations, as the agency, along with law enforcement throughout the entirety of the federal government works diligently to ensure the homeland security of the United States and the safety of the American public.

As a former career official within the Department of Homeland Security, working under both Republican and Democratic leadership to help protect the country by creating and implementing homeland security policies and programs, I am keenly aware of the ever-present dynamics between politics

and the creation of national security strategy, especially in the areas of border security and immigration enforcement.

I continue my work in national security today as the founder and CEO of Sentinel, a global risk and intelligence consulting firm and as an Adjunct Professor at the University of South Carolina, teaching future generations the impact of politics on the development of national security strategy.

## **The Threat Environment**

The current volume of threats against the United States remains robust in volume, more diverse in type, and originates from more places than at any other time in our history.

While the threat environment is constantly evolving, what must remain consistent as an essential foundation to secure the homeland is the indisputable need for border security, immigration enforcement, and thorough end-to-end vetting of

those entering the U.S. to prevent criminal and terrorist threats from entering the country.

Unfortunately, the border and immigration policies of the previous administration have made the country less safe by allowing very dangerous criminals and national security threats to enter the country, directly undercutting the very purpose for creating the Department of Homeland Security, subverting the statutory responsibilities of the Border Patrol, ICE, and practically every other agency tasked with protecting the homeland, and making their jobs exponentially more dangerous.

In addition to these known and in some cases, unknown physical violent threats to the everyday mission of law enforcement and the American people, we are also dealing with the impact of politics on a mission that should be

universally supported – enforcing the law in the effort to safeguard the country.

Inept policies and political positions of Sanctuary Cities, which fly in the face of common sense when it comes to protecting law abiding citizens, also creates more dangerous conditions for federal agents enforcing the immigration laws of the country, and all of law enforcement for that matter.

Political positions of not allowing state and local law enforcement to support ICE operations, no cash bail, and the release of violent repeat offenders, including those in the country illegally who should be prioritized for deportation, creates a protective shield for the most dangerous criminals from other countries in the US illegally.

It also endangers lives when politicians alert their communities of ICE Operations or when they offer guidance to

illegal migrants regarding how to evade ICE. It further promotes the community, in some cases, to do the same.

There must be bipartisan agreement when it comes to the protection of the country and support for those who enforce the rule of law. No civilized society has survived without it!

There must also be universal consensus that despite political policy objections, elected officials at all levels must be held accountable when crossing the red line of obstruction and assault of law enforcement officials. What we saw in New Jersey at Delaney Hall detention center was not Congressional oversight, it was an ambush, and it was violent obstruction. And it cannot be tolerated by this body.

As I've discussed, there are enough threats against this country, law abiding citizens, and the ability to safely conduct ICE operations. There should not be additional threats

originating from elected leaders against those doing their jobs,  
a job that Americans voted overwhelmingly in favor of them  
doing.

Thank you for opportunity to testify today and I am happy  
to answer any questions.