

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3214

June 4, 2018

Thomas D. Homan
Acting Director
U.S. Customs and Immigration Enforcement
500 12th St SW
Washington, DC 20536

Dear Acting Director Homan,

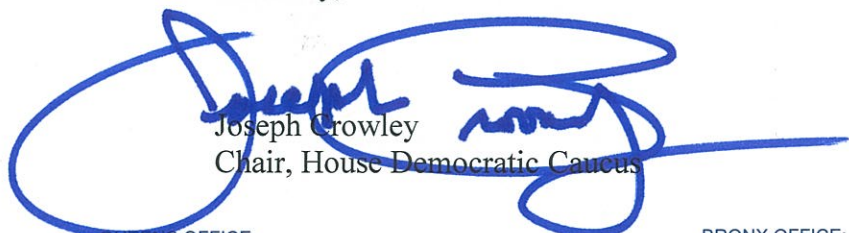
I was appalled to see reports that you will be speaking to a well-known hate group, the Center for Immigration Studies (CIS). It is highly inappropriate for a senior official of a federal agency to engage with a group that spreads such abhorrent viewpoints, including white supremacy and anti-Semitism, and I urge you to immediately retract your plans to speak.

According to the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC), an authoritative and respected organization that tracks hate groups in the United States, "CIS has circulated materials from white nationalists and anti-Semites, prominent racist thinkers," and publishes "bigoted language demonizing immigrants from all walks of life." These aren't brief mistakes – CIS is part of a network founded by white nationalist John Tanton, and in a wide-ranging study the SPLC found that CIS has circulated "white nationalist content thousands of times" and has a "record of publishing reports that hype the criminality of immigrants." It is deeply troubling that you would engage with and show such respect to a group like this, particularly given the contrast with the attacks your agency and this administration have made on immigrant families – most recently the efforts of the Department of Justice and Department of Homeland Security to separate families at the border and refer them for prosecution.

Lending legitimacy to a hate group and splitting children from families does not in any way protect national security and public safety, nor does it demonstrate the integrity and fairness that is expected of a federal agency. Instead, it fosters an environment in which extremist viewpoints come to be seen as acceptable and justified by the highest levels of your agency.

Speaking to a group like this is disqualifying for a federal official entrusted with acting in the best interests of the general public. I hope you will recognize this and the significant harm your engagement stands to cause to both public trust and the need for a constructive dialogue. I strongly urge you to immediately cancel your plans to speak with the Center for Immigration Studies.

Sincerely,



Joseph Crowley
Chair, House Democratic Caucus