



**U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement**

The Honorable Tammy Duckworth
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

November 12, 2025

Dear Senator Duckworth:

I write regarding a recent incident in which a member of your Senate staff is alleged to have intentionally misrepresented himself as a legal representative of a four-times-deported criminal illegal alien detainee. This staff member allegedly did so to gain access to the detainee and seek his release from custody, and he accomplished it by falsifying an official Department of Homeland Security (DHS) form.

As you know, DHS announced Operation Midway Blitz to target criminal illegal aliens who flocked to Illinois due to its sanctuary policies and to protect Americans from criminals wreaking havoc in Chicago. Throughout operations in Chicago and around the country, federal law enforcement officers have faced a series of attacks,¹ assaults,² threats,³ and smears⁴—including by Members of Congress.⁵ In spite of this, during Operation Midway Blitz in particular, federal law enforcement officers have taken seriously their responsibility to provide detainees access to legal representation.

¹ See e.g. U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), “DHS Sets the Record Straight on Vehicle-Ramming Attack and ‘Kidnapping’ Lie About American Teenager Who Assaulted Law Enforcement,” October 15, 2025, [DHS Sets the Record Straight on Vehicle-Ramming Attack and ‘Kidnapping’ Lie About American Teenager Who Assaulted Law Enforcement | Homeland Security](#)

² See e.g. DHS, “Violent Rioters Assault Law Enforcement at ICE Broadview Processing Center, Police under JB Pritzker’s Sanctuary Jurisdiction Refuse to Answer Calls to Help Stop Assaults,” September 19, 2025, [Violent Rioters Assault Law Enforcement at ICE Broadview Processing Center, Police under JB Pritzker’s Sanctuary Jurisdiction Refuse to Answer Calls to Help Stop Assaults | Homeland Security](#)

³ See e.g. DHS, “Days After the Dallas Terrorist Attack on ICE, Rioters Gather Outside an ICE Broadview, IL Facility and Chant ‘Arrest ICE, Shoot ICE,’” [Days After the Dallas Terrorist Attack on ICE, Rioters Gather Outside an ICE Broadview, IL Facility and Chant ‘Arrest ICE, Shoot ICE’ | Homeland Security](#)

⁴ See e.g. DHS, “DHS Blasts National Public Radio’s Disgusting Race Baiting Smears Against America’s Brave ICE Agents as Law Enforcement Arrests Worst of the Worst in Washington, DC,” September 8, 2025, <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2025/09/08/dhs-blasts-national-public-radios-disgusting-race-baiting-smears-against-americas>.

⁵ See e.g. “DHS Calls for Media and Far Left to Stop the Demonization of President Trump, His Supporters, and DHS Law Enforcement | Homeland Security,” September 17, 2025, <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2025/09/17/dhs-calls-media-and-far-left-stop-demonization-president-trump-his-supporters-and>.

In this context, on October 29, 2025, the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Enforcement and Removal Operations Chicago Field Office arrested Jose Ismeal Ayuzo Sandoval, a 40-year-old criminal illegal alien from Mexico, for federal immigration violations. ICE has previously removed Ayuzo from the United States four times, and he has been convicted of Driving Under the Influence (DUI). ICE officers transported Ayuzo to the St. Louis ICE Field Office for processing.

At approximately 1:29 pm, an individual identified as Edward York, who according to publicly available information is employed as a Constituent Outreach Coordinator for your Senate office,⁶ entered the field office lobby, and in a discussion with a federal officer, claimed to be Mr. Ayuzo's attorney. Mr. York demanded to speak with his "client," asserting that he worked for the "Suarez Law Group" of Belleville, Illinois, an organization for which DHS could find no record in that community.

Mr. York then allegedly requested a G-28 form, known as a Notice of Entry of Appearance as Attorney or Accredited Representative form,⁷ and asked that his "client" sign it. The officers informed Mr. Ayuzo that his attorney was there and provided him with the form to sign so that the purported attorney could represent him. Mr. Ayuzo signed the G-28, and the officer returned it to Mr. York.

Mr. York then asked to see his alleged client and officers informed him he would need to visit with Mr. Ayuzo at the Ste. Genevieve County Jail, located in Ste. Genevieve, Missouri. After the G-28 was filled out, Mr. York asked the officer for details about Ayuzo's case. The officer informed Mr. York that Ayuzo was arrested as a four-time deportee with a DUI conviction. At 2:10 pm, Mr. York departed the lobby area and exited the federal building, taking the signed G-28 form with him.

Four days later, a Suarez Law Office in Collinsville, Illinois filed a G-28 electronically that did not have Mr. Ayuzo's signature, even though Mr. York, who claimed to work for the law firm, had already obtained a signed form. It appears as if Mr. York may have collaborated with the firm to cover his misrepresentation.

ICE staff could not verify that Mr. York is an attorney. Soon thereafter, a federal officer found a Facebook post on the Montgomery County Illinois Democrats' page, stating that a member of your staff went to the field office "with a packet of documents including a release order," with the intention of misrepresenting himself to law enforcement, and then "updating all concerned." Additionally, the post stated that the office of Illinois Gov. J.D. Pritzker was "heavily involved" in this event.

⁶ See e.g. LegiStorm, "Edward York - Sen. Tammy Duckworth (D-IL) (June 2023-), Constituent Outreach Coordinator – Biography," accessed November 4, 2025, https://www.legistorm.com/person/bio/469777/Edward_J_York.html

⁷ See USCIS, "Notice of Entry of Appearance as Attorney or Accredited Representative," accessed November 4, 2025, <https://www.uscis.gov/g-28>.



I request your written response to the following questions by November 17, 2025:

- Is Mr. York an employed member of your congressional staff, and was he employed by your office on October 29, 2025, at the time of the incident?
- To your knowledge, is Mr. York an attorney or legal representative or person who otherwise meets requirements to represent a person detained in ICE custody as required by the G-28?
- Did Mr. York intentionally take the G-28 form with him to prevent law enforcement from identifying him?
- Did Mr. York act on orders of your office, including yours or your Chief of Staff or other leadership, to mislead law enforcement for the purpose of interacting with a detainee, obtaining federal documentation about the detainee or his case, and/or obtaining his release?
- Was Mr. York's travel to the field office and intent to speak to Mr. Ayuzo authorized by your office, and were you or any other member of your staff aware of Mr. York's intentions to travel to the field office that day?
- Are you aware that falsifying, concealing, covering up by any trick, scheming, or device of a material fact to a federal agent, as well as making or using any false writing or document knowing the same to contain any materially false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement or entry, in any matter within the jurisdiction of the U.S. government, are federal crimes (18 U.S.C. § 1001)?
- Do you condone such behavior?

- Will your office cooperate with a potential federal investigation into the incident described in this letter and potential wrongdoing by a member of your congressional staff?

I look forward to your responses, and I implore all members of the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate, as well as their staff, to stop the political games that put law enforcement and detainees at risk. It is my sincere hope that you will advocate on behalf of your constituents who have been victimized by illegal alien crime and work with DHS to remove these criminals from the United States.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd Lyons", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Todd M. Lyons
Acting Director