

April 2, 2021

The Honorable Kat Cammack
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Cammack,

We are deeply concerned about the current situation regarding the U.S. Immigration Customs Enforcement and the U.S. Border Protection agencies' lack of accountability. To put it into perspective, [more than one in five Florida residents is an immigrant](#) and over [60,000 people in Florida's District 3 are foreign-born](#). Just like U.S.-born citizens, these immigrants should be protected from human rights violations carried by law enforcement agencies. As a Congressional representative, you have the influence and power to vote for legislation that will impact the many constituents that you have the honor to serve.

Immigrants are particularly vulnerable to exploitation as they have limited access to attorneys and are exposed to an unfamiliar environment and language. It is crucial that we establish mechanisms to protect them from excessive abuses carried out by law enforcement. For example, [Claudia Patricia Gómez González](#) was shot in the head and killed by a CBP agent in 2018 after crossing the U.S.-Mexican border. The only video of the event was provided by a Río Bravo resident who saw it outside their home, which meant that there was little evidence to show in trial. The implementation of a body camera policy would provide substantial evidence and allow for families, like Claudia's, to obtain closure knowing that they have all the resources available during the trial. In fact, [results from the Civilian Complaint Review Board](#) have proven that police abuse is twice as likely to be substantiated when there is access to body camera footage.

We are urging you to support [H.R. 531: ICE and CBP Body Camera Accountability Act](#). This legislation would require agents and officers of ICE and CBP to wear body cameras and be held accountable for their actions towards immigrant detainees. The Director of ICE and the Commissioner of CBP will need to establish procedures and training for the use of cameras no later than 60 days after the enactment of the act. Additionally, the agent or office who does not record events with their body camera will be subjected to furlough, pay reduction, or a 30 days suspension. [As the nation's largest police force](#), ICE and CBP should be held to the same standards as criminal law enforcement, which are already required to use body cameras when interacting with citizens.

By supporting the H.R. 531: ICE and CBP Body Camera Accountability Act, you will demonstrate your commitment to the immigrants who reside in Florida's Congressional District 3. Please contact us if you or your staff would like to discuss this legislation further. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Concerned UF Students
Gainesville, Florida 32607