

Opening Remarks

Thank you, Representative Ramirez, for convening this shadow hearing. I'm honored that you asked me to cohost with you, because what is happening is a threat to our communities, our civil liberties, and our democracy itself.

Like you all, I was sickened to see yesterday that ICE agents had killed another person, this time in Maine. Federal agents shot and killed Joan Sebastian Guerrero while he was in his car on Monday. I was sickened last week when I saw that federal immigration agents in Texas killed Lorenzo Salgado Araujo, also murdering him when he was in his car. This is becoming a regular occurrence when you turn on the news. At least 21 people have been shot by federal immigration agents since last year, often while in their cars,

and five have died, including three United States citizens.

Senator Guzmán, I know that you helped to pass the Illinois Bivens Act, and I am heartened that it was signed into law. I introduced a federal Bivens Act—of which Representative Ramirez is a cosponsor—to give the same rights to people in all states. It is crucial that when someone's rights are violated by a federal official, they can sue that official and hold them accountable. Otherwise, we will see officers acting with impunity like they are now.

These tragedies and this police state have been turbocharged not only by the lack of officer accountability, but also by the aggressive use of technology and artificial intelligence. Tech oligarchs have found that there is a seemingly unlimited amount of money to be made through government contracts for massive surveillance, and in just

the last year and a half, they have gotten billions of dollars' worth of government contracts for their technology. As just one example, Palantir has a \$1 billion agreement with DHS for its tools. Such technology allows the government to target people based on race, ethnicity, perceived immigration status, and first amendment activity.... all while lining the pockets of these tech bros. Americans cannot afford groceries, but the Trump Administration and MAGA Republicans are pouring money into funding these mass surveillance tools so that ICE agents can go around killing people. It has got to stop, so we must fight back.

Thank you to all our witnesses, both in person and virtual. I am looking forward to hearing your testimony about what you are seeing and what we can do about it. And thank

you for all the hard work that you are doing on the ground in
our communities.

I yield back.