



Rep. Ramirez (IL-03) - the Reimagining Safety Act

[Bill Text](#) | [Press Release](#) | [Press Conference](#)

Endorsing Organizations' Quotes:

- **Muslims for Just Futures, Darakshan Raja, Executive Director:**

"At Muslims for Just Futures, we are honored to support the Reimagining Safety Act, a visionary bill that begins the long-overdue work of repairing the harms of the past 25 years of the War on Terror. For decades, trillions of public dollars have been invested in the expansion of the Department of Homeland Security and a broader apparatus of surveillance, detention, deportation, and state violence, while the communities most impacted have faced extraction and divestment. The Reimagining Safety Act charts a different path toward just governance by dismantling DHS and moving public resources back into the communities that have borne the greatest costs of these systems. Rather than continuing to invest trillions in systems of state repression and terror, this bill invests directly in people and communities and begins building the infrastructure needed for just futures."

- **Casa DuPage Workers Center, Cristobal Cavazos, Founding Member:**

"ICE is an agency of racism institutionalized and hatred armed; it represents all that we reject as people of love and conscience: bullying, scapegoating, hate mongering, and the worldview that tells us in my community, the Mexican community, in spite of our Native American blood, and that fact that over half of the USA was once Mexico, that we don't belong here! We as essential workers very much belong here; it is ICE that doesn't belong here. This bill shows that, like Jim Crow, like slave patrols and operation wetback, which sought to divide our nation on the issue of race, it is our moral duty to shut ICE down!"

- **Muslim Civic Coalition, Amina Barhumi, Executive Director:**

"For Illinois Muslim communities, this bill is personal," said Muslim Civic Coalition Executive Director Amina Barhumi. "DHS has been surveilling and silencing us since its founding. Instead of terrorizing our communities, our government should be investing in them – and this proposal lays out a real roadmap for accountability, safety, and well-being."

- **Organized Communities Against Deportations, Antonio Gutierrez, Strategic Coordinator:**

"We believe ICE can and must be abolished. Today, we are collectively drafting a more just future—and history will remember this moment."

- **Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, Lawrence Benito, Executive Director:**

"ICIRR is proud to have worked with Representative Ramirez and other key stakeholders to develop the Reimagining Safety Act. This legislation presents a bold vision of how the federal government can support and invest in our communities. Our nation needs to move beyond the policies and mindsets that have devastated our families and neighborhoods and instead focus on what really keeps us all safe."



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[Bill Text](#) | [Press Release](#) | [Press Conference](#)

- **Free Speech For People, John Bonifaz, Co-founder and President:**

“Free Speech For People is proud to endorse The Reimagining Safety Act, and we thank Congresswoman Ramirez for her courage and leadership in championing it,” says John Bonifaz, the co-founder and president of Free Speech For People. “This critical legislation will dismantle DHS, abolish ICE and CBP, establish a new Department of Community Safety, and reinvest funds in our communities. The fight for our democracy includes the work of enacting the Reimagining Safety Act into law. We urge all Members of Congress to join in advancing this bill.”

- **Decolonize Sudan, Mariam Nasr, Communications Director:**

“Safety is built by investing in people. As human rights advocates, we welcome a bill that recommits the United States to the Geneva Conventions.”

- **American Friends Service Committee, Aura Kanegis, AFSC's Director of Global Policy and Strategy:**

“The 25 year experiment in hyper-militarized responses to political violence rolled out after 9/11 has been a catastrophic failure. DHS, ICE, and related agencies have been ineffective and destructive. Their structures are also now being used as easy tools to suppress dissent and terrorize marginalized communities as authoritarianism grows stronger in the US and around the world. It is time to eliminate these costly and tyrannical approaches and invest in true safety rather than security theater.”

- **Servicio Internacional para la Paz, International Coordinator:**

“Hasta que la dignidad se haga costumbre”

- **Global Exchange, Marco Castillo, Co-Executive Director:**

“Now more than ever, we need leadership in Congress that represents the demand of a majority of Americans”

- **Council on American-Islamic Relations Chicago (CAIR-Chicago), Jordan Esparza-Kelley, Communications Coordinator:**

“Since the creation of DHS, the Muslim community in Chicagoland, and America broadly, has been directly, intensely, and unjustly targeted by the department. DHS' profiling has dissolved any sense of privacy and has sought to silence and remove the Muslim community— all of which CAIR-Chicago has spent over 20 years combating. This legislative effort, led by the Congresswoman, was able to call in directly impacted communities and reimagine safety and national security from a framework of love, care, and tolerance. Legislation such as the Reimagining Safety Act can change and save lives; it can help us truly be who we say we are as a country.”



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[Bill Text](#) | [Press Release](#) | [Press Conference](#)

- **Center for Constitutional Rights, Brad Parker, Associate Director of Policy:**

"As federal law enforcement agencies operate with near-complete impunity as they implement Trump's mass deportation policies, the compounding result is an escalated attack on constitutional rights that is intended to foster democratic backsliding and bolster rising authoritarianism. This rights-based, people-centered vision is a fundamental policy shift necessary to dismantle increasingly entrenched oppressive systems of power, including white supremacy, economic oppression, gender oppression, and abusive state practices. We thank Congresswoman Ramirez for her bold leadership as a champion for rights-based and people-centered policy."

- **Haitian Bridge Alliance, Guerline Jozef, Executive Director:**

"The Haitian community is being terrorized, racially profiled and persecuted by an immigration enforcement system that has placed families in fear of detention, deportation, separation, and forced return to a country facing profound humanitarian and security challenges. The Reimagining Safety Act offers an opportunity to fundamentally rethink a system that has caused enormous harm to immigrant communities. Safety cannot be achieved through fear. It must be grounded in dignity, due process, family unity, and the protection of human rights."

- **Arise Chicago, Laura Garza, Executive Director:**

"The U.S. economy depends on immigrant labor. *All* workers need to be able to safely go to and from work without fear of being disappeared. The Reimagining Safety Act would transform a Department based on violence against working people, into one upholding the rights and safety of ALL working families."

- **Palenque LSNA, Viviana Barajas, Director of Immigration and Cultural Resistance:**

"This administration has set a precedent of halfheartedly gutting and downsizing departments it no longer perceives as necessary; what we are proposing is the antithesis of that. Our marker bill is a proactive, meticulously crafted blueprint designed alongside community stakeholders. Our goal is simple: to transition away from the structural harms of the Department of Homeland Security and establish a Department of Community Safety that is deeply rooted in human dignity."

- **Zero Hour, Jamie Minden, Executive Director:**

"Youth climate organizers and land defenders have long been surveilled, labeled as threats, and criminalized for protecting water, land, and our right to a livable future. At the same time, the United States has manufactured the war on terror to justify imperial oil wars and dismantle civil liberties around the world. When the global erosion of safety caused by US military intervention and the climate crisis causes families to seek refuge in the US, they are met by state violence from institutions like ICE and DHS. By abolishing ICE, defending due process, and



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[Bill Text](#) | [Press Release](#) | [Press Conference](#)

protecting our right to surveillance-free lives, the Reimagining Safety Act is essential to the struggle for civil rights, climate justice, and our freedom of speech and protest."

- **Warehouse Workers for Justice, Marcos Ceniceros, Executive Director:**

"Black, Brown, and immigrant warehouse workers kept our economy moving through the pandemic, and they continue to sustain critical industries today. True community safety means ensuring that workers can earn a living, provide for their families, and exercise their rights without fear. The Reimagining Community Safety Act rethinks public safety through the lens of humanity, dignity, and the lived experiences of our communities. We thank Congresswoman Delia Ramirez for advancing this vision and standing with immigrant working people."

- **Illinois Poor People's Campaign (ILPPC), Sheilah Garland-Olaniran, Member of the Coordinating Committee:**

The Illinois Poor People's Campaign, recognizes the need for legislation that serves to organize and alert our communities of our need to continue to organize and connect. The actions of this administration are frightening for our communities but that does not mean we are afraid to fight. On the contrary, history tells us that we have an obligation to fight for the future of us all. Therefore, the ILPPC stands ten toes down with Congresswoman Delia Ramirez and all those across the state of Illinois, and the country to demand that we fund safety and humanity and not terror and authoritarianism."

- **Indivisible Chicago Alliance, Kathy Tholin, Board Chair:**

"The lawlessness and cruelty of ICE and DHS only brings terror and fear to our communities. The Reimagining Safety Act creates a path to genuine community safety, ends the campaign of terror, and reinvests in our communities. Congresswoman Ramirez has stepped up with vision and commitment to lead in this moment and we need Congress to act."

- **Defending Rights & Dissent, said Shannon Al-Wakeel, Executive Director:**

"Our friends and neighbors are being spied on, protestors and dissidents are being criminalized, and people are fearful of speaking out against our government's policies and violence. This bill would help us reclaim our First and Fourth Amendment rights by curtailing mass surveillance; ending funding for ICE -- an agency that extensively surveils immigrants, activists, and the wider public; and ending foreign terrorist designations which have been used to criminalize constitutionally protected political speech and associations."

- **Bend the Arc: Jewish Action, Jamie Beran, CEO:**

"DHS and ICE are younger than the youngest members of Congress; they were created in the fear-driven, xenophobic aftermath of 9/11, so it is no wonder that these agencies' impact ever since has largely been to target immigrants and people of color more broadly in our country. For



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[Bill Text](#) | [Press Release](#) | [Press Conference](#)

decades, too many departments of DHS have done more harm than good. Under both Democratic and Republican administrations, ICE and CBP have torn immigrant families apart while so-called Countering Violent Extremism programs have unjustly surveilled Arab American and Muslim American communities. It is far past time to preserve the few critical components of DHS—like FEMA—and dismantle the others just like the Reimagining Safety Act would do.”

- **Jewish Council on Urban Affairs, Anna Rubin, Executive Director**

“Many members of our Jewish community are immigrants themselves or come from immigrant, refugee, or asylee families. Our own histories teach us that we cannot stand idly by when our neighbors are the targets of state violence. We know that our safety is bound up together, that true safety is a multiracial democracy where everyone has what they need to flourish. That is the department Congresswoman Ramirez’s bill creates. That is why JCUA stands proudly behind it.”

- **Rising Majority Action Front, Loan Tran, National Co-Director**

“As the attacks on our communities intensify, it is important now more than ever to take bold, decisive action to repair harm and chart a new course into the future. Rising Majority Action Front is proud to endorse Rep. Ramirez’s ‘Reimagining Safety Act’ as it reflects the urgent and bold demands of the communities we represent all across the country.”

- **Muslim Advocates, Sumayyah Waheed, Senior Policy Counsel:**

“For more than two decades, American Muslim communities have been targeted by over-surveillance, profiling, and unchecked national security overreach. We are proud to endorse the Reimagining Safety Act, a historic, community-led bill that charts a path from this systemic harm to healing. We thank Rep. Ramirez and call on Congress to pass this visionary bill.”

- **Detention Watch Network, Setareh Ghandehari, Advocacy Director:**

“ICE kills people, and tears families apart, and threatens community safety wherever they got. No one is safe when ICE is present – whether on the streets or in one of the agency’s more than 200 abuse-ridden detention facilities centers. In fiscal year 2026, 37 people died in ICE custody, the highest number of deaths in the agency’s entire history. These deaths are the result of systemic abuse that has existed since ICE was hastily created just two decades ago as part of the Department of Homeland Security. Today the American public is clear: ICE is not necessary. No more abuse and, no more death at the hands of ICE and no more ICE funding while people lose health care, struggle to pay rent and kids go hungry. Our elected officials must act now to shut down ICE detention centers, stop detention expansion, cut funding for ICE, get ICE out of communities, and dismantle DHS.”



Rep. Ramirez (IL-03) - the Reimagining Safety Act

[Bill Text](#) | [Press Release](#) | [Press Conference](#)

- **National Nurses United, Puneet Maharaj, Executive Director:**

“The Trump administration has used agencies like ICE within the Department of Homeland Security as a paramilitary force, and held funding hostage for agencies that aid our communities like FEMA—it’s immoral and does not have to be this way. ICE has only existed for a few decades and even prior to this administration, ICE has been used to terrorize our immigrant neighbors. It is long overdue for Congress to get rid of the harmful agency and reimagine what a healthier society should look like. National Nurses United is proud to endorse the Reimagining Safety Act to protect our patients and neighbors.”