

Forward Latino: Supports DHS shutdown pending reforms

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FRANKLIN, WI- Forward Latino today announced its support for the temporary shutdown of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) until meaningful reforms are implemented to ensure that immigration enforcement practices fully respect and uphold the constitutional rights of all individuals.

Forward Latino, a national nonpartisan organization dedicated to empowering Latino families through civic engagement and policy advocacy, has serious concerns regarding due process violations, unlawful detentions, racial profiling, lack of transparency, and agents operating without clear identification demand immediate structural reform.

“Constitutional protections are not optional, they are the foundation of our democracy,” said Darryl Morin, National President of Forward Latino. “When video and other credible evidence and community testimony point to patterns of constitutional violations, attacks on our liberty, by immigration enforcement agents, Congress has the responsibility to act, and to act decisively. Unfortunately, it appears a temporary shutdown of DHS is a necessary step to compel comprehensive reform and restore public trust.”

Forward Latino insists on the following reforms before further DHS funding is approved:

- Clear, enforceable standards prohibiting racial profiling and unlawful searches and seizures
- Guaranteed access to legal counsel and due process protections for detained individuals
- Independent oversight mechanisms with subpoena power and public reporting requirements
- Mandatory constitutional rights, use of force and de-escalation training for all

immigration enforcement agents

- A prohibition on immigration enforcement agents wearing masks or concealing their identities during routine operations
- A requirement that all agents clearly display official identification and provide verifiable credentials upon request
- Transparent data collection and public disclosure of enforcement actions

“Public trust depends on transparency and accountability,” Morin added. “No individual exercising federal enforcement authority should do so anonymously or without clearly identifying themselves to the communities they serve. Ensuring visible identification and prohibiting unnecessary face coverings during enforcement actions are basic safeguards against abuse and confusion, which sadly, have already led to the loss of life.”

Forward Latino calls on lawmakers from both parties to prioritize our individual liberty, constitutional compliance, accountability, and humane immigration enforcement practices. The organization also urges community members and civic leaders to engage in dialogue and advocate for reforms that uphold American democratic principles.

“Our nation is strongest when our laws are enforced fairly, transparently, and in accordance with the Constitution,” the statement concluded. “Forward Latino stands firmly in support of reforms that ensure dignity, justice, and equal protection under the law for all.”

About Forward Latino:

Forward Latino advocates for community empowerment, democracy, and civil rights while addressing hate crimes, gun violence, and the needs of veterans and working families. We train and support a diverse network of Hispanic leaders to meet the civic, economic, and political challenges of the 21st century. Learn more at www.forwardlatino.org .