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Padilla, Booker Unveil New Bill to Require Immigration Officers to Display Clear Identification

Padilla also leads 13 Democrats in [LETTER \(HTTPS://WWW.PADILLA.SENATE.GOV/WP-CONTENT/UPLOADS/PADILLA-LETTER-TO-ICE-RE-MASKS-AND-UNIFORMS.PDF\)](https://www.padilla.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/padilla-letter-to-ice-re-masks-and-uniforms.pdf) to DHS requesting information about ICE's use of unidentified plainclothes agents

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Today, U.S. Senators Alex Padilla (D-Calif.), Ranking Member of the Senate Judiciary Immigration Subcommittee, and Cory Booker (D-N.J.) introduced new legislation to require immigration enforcement officers to display clearly visible identification during public-facing enforcement actions. The *Visible Identification Standards for Immigration-Based Law Enforcement (VISIBLE) Act of 2025* would strengthen oversight, transparency, and accountability for the Trump Administration's indiscriminate and alarming immigration enforcement tactics that have terrorized communities across California and the nation.

Under the Trump Administration's mass deportation agenda, civil immigration enforcement operations have increasingly involved Department of Homeland Security (DHS) officers engaging with the public while wearing unmarked tactical gear, concealing clothing, and face coverings that obscure both agency affiliation and personal identity. Without visible badges, names, or insignia, members of the public often have no way to confirm whether they are interacting with legitimate government officials.

This lack of transparency endangers public safety by causing widespread confusion and fear, especially in communities already subject to heightened immigration scrutiny. It also increases operational and safety risks for law enforcement personnel by creating an opportunity for immigration enforcement impersonators and compounding uncertainty in high-stress situations. Clear, consistent, visible identification helps reduce miscommunication during enforcement encounters, strengthens officer credibility, and improves public cooperation, all of which are vital to mission success. The *VISIBLE Act* would place a critical check on the government's power, ensuring basic transparency safeguards that protect public trust and legitimacy in immigration enforcement operations.

"When federal immigration agents show up and pull someone off the street in plainclothes with their face obscured and no visible identification, it only escalates tensions and spreads fear while shielding federal agents from basic accountability," **said Senator Padilla**. "Immigration agents should be required to display their agency and name or badge number — just like police and other local law enforcement agencies. The *VISIBLE Act*'s commonsense requirements will restore transparency and ensure impersonators can't exploit the panic and confusion caused by unidentifiable federal immigration enforcement agents."

"For weeks, Americans have watched federal agents with no visible identification detain people off the streets and instill fear in communities across the country. Reports of individuals impersonating ICE officers have only increased the risk to public and officer safety. The lack of visible identification and

uniform standards for immigration enforcement officers has created confusion, stoked fear, and undermined public trust in law enforcement,” **said Senator Booker**. “The *VISIBLE* Act is a necessary response grounded in law enforcement best practices that will prohibit immigration enforcement officers from wearing face coverings and require them to display their name or badge number and the agency they represent. We must act to maintain trust between law enforcement and the communities they serve, and this legislation is a necessary step toward a more transparent, accountable, and safe immigration enforcement system.”

“This bill is an important step toward keeping immigration enforcement officers and all the people in America safe. Masked, plainclothes officers create an unreasonable risk of escalating violence and unnerve everyone who sees them,” **said Scott Shuchart, Former ICE and DHS (Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties) Official**. “As much as the cop in blues is a staple of American life, the masked bandit is a symbol of fear, and having government agents dressed like paramilitaries is un-American. Based on my experience in government, the *VISIBLE* Act makes good sense and would be straightforward for DHS officials to implement.”

The ongoing immigration enforcement operations in Los Angeles County by unidentified federal agents have **STOKED FEAR AND UNCERTAINTY ([HTTPS://WWW.LATIMES.COM/CALIFORNIA/STORY/2025-06-24/MASKED-IMMIGRATION-AGENTS-LOCAL-LAW-ENFORCEMENT-TENSION](https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2025-06-24/masked-immigration-agents-local-law-enforcement-tension))** throughout the region amid President Trump’s unprecedented escalation of militarized tactics. Recently **AT DODGER STADIUM ([HTTPS://WWW.LATIMES.COM/CALIFORNIA/STORY/2025-06-19/DHS-AGENTS-AT-DODGER-STADIUM-AREA](https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2025-06-19/dhs-agents-at-dodger-stadium-area))**, plainclothes immigration agents parked outside of the stadium lot without identifying themselves. In Bell, masked agents wearing fatigues **DETAINED AT LEAST THREE PEOPLE ([HTTPS://WWW.LATIMES.COM/CALIFORNIA/STORY/2025-06-20/IMMIGRATION-RAID-PROTESTERS-GATHER-IN-BELL-MAYWOOD](https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2025-06-20/immigration-raid-protesters-gather-in-bell-maywood))** at a car wash, and in Pasadena, an agent exited an unmarked vehicle in the middle of the road and **AIMED HIS PISTOL ([HTTPS://WWW.LATIMES.COM/CALIFORNIA/STORY/2025-06-24/MASKED-IMMIGRATION-AGENTS-LOCAL-LAW-ENFORCEMENT-TENSION](https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2025-06-24/masked-immigration-agents-local-law-enforcement-tension))** at a group of pedestrians without identifying himself. From June 6 to June 22, immigration enforcement agents — many lacking identifying information — **ARRESTED 1,618 IMMIGRANTS ([HTTPS://WWW.LATIMES.COM/POLITICS/STORY/2025-06-25/MORE-THAN-1-600-IMMIGRANTS-DETAINED-IN-SOUTHERN-CALIFORNIA-THIS-MONTH-DHS-SAYS](https://www.latimes.com/politics/story/2025-06-25/more-than-1-600-immigrants-detained-in-southern-california-this-month-dhs-says))** for deportation in Los Angeles County and surrounding areas.

Specifically, the *VISIBLE* Act:

- Requires immigration enforcement officers — including DHS personnel such as Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), federal agents detailed to immigration operations, and deputized state or local officers — to display clearly legible identification, including their agency name or initials and either their name or badge number, in a manner that remains visible and unobscured by tactical gear or clothing;
- Prohibits non-medical face coverings (such as masks or balaclavas) that obscure identity or facial visibility, with exceptions for environmental hazards or covert operations; and
- Requires DHS to establish disciplinary procedures for violations, report annually to Congress on compliance, and investigate complaints through its Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties.

The bill does *not* apply to covert or non-public facing operations, nor does it prohibit face coverings when necessary for officer safety. It also does *not* apply to enforcement actions conducted solely under criminal authority.

The *VISIBLE* Act is cosponsored by Senators Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.), Tammy Duckworth (D-Ill.), Mazie Hirono (D-Hawaii), Andy Kim (D-N.J.), Patty Murray (D-Wash.), Adam Schiff (D-Calif.), Elissa Slotkin (D-Mich.), Tina Smith (D-Minn.), Gary Peters (D-Mich.), Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.), Peter Welch (D-Vt.), and Ron Wyden (D-Ore.).

The bill is endorsed by the ACLU and Public Counsel.

A one-pager on the bill is available [HERE \(HTTPS://WWW.PADILLA.SENATE.GOV/WP-CONTENT/UPLOADS/VISIBLE-ACT-ONE-PAGER-UPDATED.PDF\)](https://www.padilla.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/visible-act-one-pager-updated.pdf).

Full text of the bill is available [HERE \(HTTPS://WWW.PADILLA.SENATE.GOV/WP-CONTENT/UPLOADS/VISIBLE-ACT-07.07.25.PDF\)](https://www.padilla.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/visible-act-07.07.25.pdf).

Senator Padilla also led 13 Democratic Senators in a letter criticizing ICE for engaging in counterproductive, theatrical enforcement activities — including raids on **COURTHOUSES** ([HTTPS://SCOTTPETERS.HOUSE.GOV/_CACHE/FILES/C/A/CAC50BD9-578A-4C40-A6CC-1F85E68CCEF5/F206D2238CC51DAA7A9B6A47D7F37B34E2C523B5E9BA05BE82BCDB5204A0EB68.LETTER-TO-SEC.-NOEM-REGARDING-ICE-ARRESTS-IN-SAN-DIEGO-COURTHOUSES-FINAL.PDF](https://scottpeters.house.gov/cache/files/c/a/cac50bd9-578a-4c40-a6cc-1f85e68ccef5/f206d2238cc51dAA7A9B6A47D7F37B34E2C523B5E9BA05BE82BCDB5204A0EB68.LETTER-TO-SEC.-NOEM-REGARDING-ICE-ARRESTS-IN-SAN-DIEGO-COURTHOUSES-FINAL.PDF)) and **RESTAURANTS** ([HTTPS://WWW.PADILLA.SENATE.GOV/NEWSROOM/PRESS-RELEASES/PADILLA-SCHIFF-PETERS-VARGAS-DEMAND-INVESTIGATION-INTO-SAN-DIEGO-ICE-RAID/](https://www.padilla.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/padilla-schiff-peters-vargas-demand-investigation-into-san-diego-ice-raid/)) — and requesting information from the agency on its mask and uniform policies. The Senators argued that these tactics are designed to sow fear and chaos and that allowing masked, plainclothes officers to engage in public raids creates situations where bad actors can commit crimes while claiming to be ICE agents.

In addition to Padilla, the letter was also signed by Senators Blumenthal, Booker, Dick Durbin (D-Ill.), Hirono, Mark Kelly (D-Ariz.), Murray, Jacky Rosen (D-Nev.), Schiff, Smith, Van Hollen, Raphael Warnock (D-Ga.), Welch, and Wyden.

Full text of the letter is available [HERE \(HTTPS://WWW.PADILLA.SENATE.GOV/WP-CONTENT/UPLOADS/PADILLA-LETTER-TO-ICE-RE-MASKS-AND-UNIFORMS.PDF\)](https://www.padilla.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/padilla-letter-to-ice-re-masks-and-uniforms.pdf).

Senator Padilla has been outspoken in criticizing Trump's mass deportations and unprecedented militarization and escalation of tensions by deploying National Guard troops and active-duty U.S. Marines to respond to overwhelmingly peaceful protests in Los Angeles. Padilla recently **LED THE ENTIRE SENATE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS** ([HTTPS://WWW.PADILLA.SENATE.GOV/NEWSROOM/PRESS-RELEASES/PADILLA-LEADS-ENTIRE-SENATE-DEMOCRATIC-CAUCUS-IN-DEMANDING-TRUMP-REMOVE-MILITARY-FORCES-FROM-LOS-ANGELES/](https://www.padilla.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/padilla-leads-entire-senate-democratic-caucus-in-demanding-trump-remove-military-forces-from-los-angeles/)) in demanding that President Trump immediately withdraw all military forces from Los Angeles and cease all threats to deploy the National Guard or active-duty servicemembers to American cities. Padilla spoke on the Senate floor following his **FORCIBLE REMOVAL** ([HTTPS://WWW.PADILLA.SENATE.GOV/NEWSROOM/PRESS-RELEASES/STATEMENT-ON-SEN-PADILLAS-FORCIBLE-REMOVAL-FROM-DHS-PRESS-CONFERENCE-IN-LOS-ANGELES/](https://www.padilla.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/statement-on-sen-padillas-forcible-removal-from-dhs-press-conference-in-los-angeles/)) from Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem's press conference, where he was **THROWN TO THE GROUND AND HANDCUFFED** ([HTTPS://LFTS2.SENATE.GOV/W/5DDCIVZPACUM0XP8GWL8STH5IB9HPYKRMUXMSZ41DG91F](https://lfts2.senate.gov/w/5DDCIVZPACUM0XP8GWL8STH5IB9HPYKRMUXMSZ41DG91F)) after attempting to ask a question. He has spoken at a **SPOTLIGHT HEARING** ([HTTPS://WWW.PADILLA.SENATE.GOV/NEWSROOM/PRESS-RELEASES/WATCH-PADILLA-WARNS-AGAINST-TRUMPS-UNPRECEDENTED-OVERREACH-IN-LOS-ANGELES-CONDEMNS-ABUSE-OF-IMMIGRANTS-TO-ATTACK-OUR-CONSTITUTIONAL-ORDER/](https://www.padilla.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/watch-padilla-warns-against-trumps-unprecedented-overreach-in-los-angeles-condemns-abuse-of-immigrants-to-attack-our-constitutional-order/)) and on the **SENATE FLOOR** ([HTTPS://WWW.PADILLA.SENATE.GOV/NEWSROOM/PRESS-RELEASES/WATCH-PADILLA-CONDEMNS-TRUMP-FEDERALIZING-OF-NATIONAL-GUARD-AFTER-INDISCRIMINATE-ICE-RAIDS-IN-LOS-ANGELES/](https://www.padilla.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/watch-padilla-condemns-trump-federalizing-of-national-guard-after-indiscriminate-ice-raids-in-los-angeles/)) **MULTIPLE** ([HTTPS://WWW.PADILLA.SENATE.GOV/NEWSROOM/PRESS-RELEASES/WATCH-PADILLA-SLAM-TRUMPS-UNPRECEDENTED-MOBILIZATION-OF-MARINES-AND-NATIONAL-GUARD-IN-LA-PUSHES-FOR-PERMANENT-DACA-PROTECTIONS/](https://www.padilla.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/watch-padilla-slams-trumps-unprecedented-mobilization-of-marines-and-national-guard-in-la-pushes-for-permanent-daca-protections/)) **OTHER TIMES**

([HTTPS://WWW.PADILLA.SENATE.GOV/NEWSROOM/PRESS-RELEASES/WATCH-PADILLA-DELIVERS-FLOOR-SPEECH-FOLLOWING-HIS-FORCIBLE-REMOVAL-FROM-DHS-PRESS-CONFERENCE/](https://www.padilla.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/watch-padilla-delivers-floor-speech-following-his-forcible-removal-from-dhs-press-conference/)) to blast President Trump for manufacturing a crisis by launching indiscriminate ICE raids across Los Angeles and using that crisis to dramatically expand executive power. Padilla is also **LEADING LEGISLATION** **([HTTPS://WWW.PADILLA.SENATE.GOV/NEWSROOM/PRESS-RELEASES/PADILLA-SCHIFF-BLUMENTHAL-INTRODUCE-LEGISLATION-TO-LIMIT-UNCHECKED-PRESIDENTIAL-AUTHORITY-UNDER-THE-INSURRECTION-ACT/](https://www.padilla.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/padilla-schiff-blumenthal-introduce-legislation-to-limit-unchecked-presidential-authority-under-the-insurrection-act/))** to restrict the President's authority under the 217-year-old *Insurrection Act* and limit the domestic deployment of military troops for law enforcement purposes.

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Related Issues

IMMIGRATION ([HTTPS://WWW.PADILLA.SENATE.GOV/ABOUT/ISSUES/IMMIGRATION/](https://www.padilla.senate.gov/about/issues/immigration/))