

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 13, 2019

The Honorable Kirstjen M. Nielsen  
Secretary of Homeland Security  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Nielsen:

We write concerning recent reports that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), in coordination with Mexican officials, has taken retaliatory actions against journalists and lawyers along the southern border.

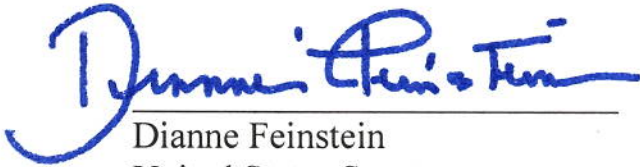
Over the past few months, a number of news reports have documented harassment of journalists and attorneys along the border. U.S. officials are said to cooperate with Mexican police and subject individuals to prolonged detention and unlawful searches, and deny entry into either country. *NBC News* reported that DHS compiled dossiers and lists of reporters, attorneys and activists in order to flag them for scrutiny when crossing the border in San Diego.

Please provide a detailed explanation of any actions taken by DHS against any journalist or lawyer on either side of the border and include descriptions of any intelligence gathering effort, cooperation with the Mexican government, and details of any alerts, stops, inspections, and searches faced by journalists and advocates working at or near the border.

Access to legal services, humanitarian aid, and a free press are cornerstones of our democracy and should not be eroded. The U.S. government should not participate in any effort to target or punish those who document the facts or provide assistance to those in need.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator



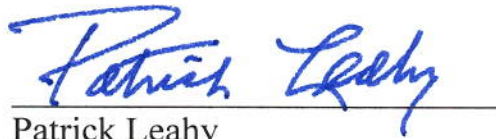
Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator



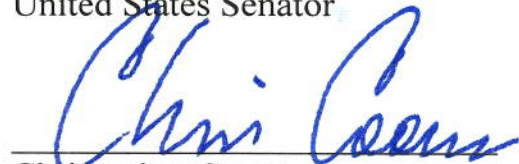
Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator



Patrick Leahy  
United States Senator



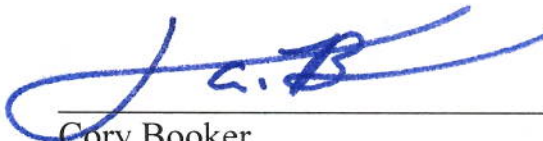
Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator



Christopher Coons  
United States Senator



Kamala D. Harris  
United States Senator



Cory Booker  
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator