



**U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement**

FEB 25 2014

The Honorable Mike Thompson
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Thompson:

Thank you for your recent letter to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) regarding immigration detainees.

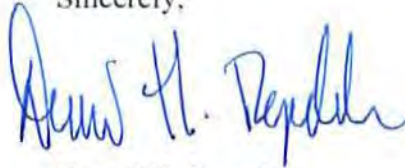
As you know, Form I-247, Immigration Detainer–Notice of Action, is a notice that U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), within DHS, has reason to believe that an alien may be subject to removal from the United States. By issuing a detainer, ICE requests that an LEA maintain custody of an alien for a period not to exceed 48 hours (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and federal holidays) after he or she would otherwise be released by an LEA, to provide time for ICE to assume custody. While immigration detainers are an important part of ICE's effort to remove criminal aliens who are in federal, state, or local custody, they are not mandatory as a matter of law. As such, ICE relies on the cooperation of its law enforcement partners in this effort to promote public safety.

ICE uses detainers to help focus its limited resources on its public safety, national security, and border security missions. ICE's use of detainers is focused on the most serious criminal offenders. ICE limits the use of detainers against individuals arrested for minor misdemeanor offenses (e.g., traffic offenses and other petty crimes) who are not otherwise ICE priorities, helping to ensure that limited available resources are focused on apprehending felons, repeat offenders, and immigration violators who fall under other ICE priorities.

To ensure clarity with law enforcement partners and the public, information about immigration detainers is publically available online at <http://www.ice.gov/news/library/factsheet/s/detainer-faqs/htm>. The site also provides a link to Form I-247. Additionally, a short video briefing for front-line state and local law enforcement personnel describing ICE's use of immigration detainers and extensive supporting materials for law enforcement leadership are available at http://www.ice.gov/secure_communities/crel.htm.

Thank you once again for your letter. The co-signers of your letter will each receive a separate, identical response. Should you need additional assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 732-5907.

Sincerely,



Daniel H. Ragsdale
Acting Director