

FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

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November 19, 2018

The Honorable Kamala Harris
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Harris,

I am writing you today as President of the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association (FLEOA) representing more than 27,000 federal agents and officers in 65 federal agencies. Many of our members are in the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) component.

I am outraged by your behavior and remarks during the November 15, 2018 Hearing on the Nomination of Ronald D. Vitiello to be Assistant Secretary for Immigration and Customs Enforcement slandering the brave men and women of ICE likening them to the Ku Klux Klan! The fact that you would stoop to a provocative untruth demeaning loyal public servants is reprehensible. Moreover, its being aired in a public hearing without objection is equally disgusting.

The United States Congress passed our immigration laws and established the DHS and ICE, and they were signed into law by the President. Congress holds ICE responsible for enforcing over 400 statutes and laws focusing on immigration enforcement. In fact, the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee directly supervises these activities. As you know, ICE agents and officers investigate illegal aliens who are criminals, fugitives and unlawful arrivals. They investigate illegal trade predominantly involving guns, money drugs, child pornography and sexual exploitation of children. They risk their lives on a daily basis making America safe.

I am appalled that a United States Senator would ask a witness nominated for a Presidentially Appointed, Senate Confirmed position as leader of a Government Agency if he was aware of the parallels of the notorious criminal Ku Klux Klan and his agency, ICE. As Acting Director Vitiello responded, there are no parallels between sworn officers and agents and this hateful entity. ICE conducts its activities legally, professionally and with compassion.

I understand that potential Presidential candidates will use congressional hearings to highlight media misperceptions to raise their visibility, however, I am sickened by your broad-brush character assassination of the thousands of heroic agents and officers you impugned. FLEOA and the thousands of law enforcement officers who risk their lives daily, as well as their friends and families, will be watching for your response to this outrageous insult.

Sincerely,

Nathan R. Catura

Nathan R. Catura
National President
Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association

CC: The Honorable Ron Johnson, The Honorable Claire McCaskill