

Katherine Douglas

Public Comment

#7



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# COLAB

The Coalition of Labor, Agriculture & Business

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors  
July 15, 2025 Meeting  
Public Comment Item D-7

Chair Capps and Members of the Board,

COLAB is of the opinion that our immigration system is badly broken and that it is not working well for either immigrants or employers. Moreover, we believe the two political economic extremes of amnesty for all, or deport them all, is unreasonable, untenable, and downright foolish.

The policy we would like to see in place would allow the immigrants who are gainfully employed to be granted a work permit as long as they are not guilty of any serious crimes, they pay their taxes (versus being part of the vast underground economy), and they are not a burden to society by way of collecting welfare payments and other benefits that are reserved for American citizens.

On the other hand, the Federal Government has every right and in fact, it is their duty, to enforce immigration laws until Congress and the current administration fix our broken system. It is our understanding that the first priority of ICE is to deport convicted criminals and others who have already received their final orders to deport. A second priority is rescuing the hundreds of thousands of unaccompanied minors who disappeared after having crossed the border as it is expected that the vast majority of these children are being trafficked. A third priority of the federal government is shutting down cartel-related business enterprises in our country that are engaged in violence, illicit drug sales, and human trafficking, including prostitution of children.

Unfortunately, for all the people blasting the feds for the Glass House raid, the media is reporting that Glass House may have checked all three boxes as it pertains to the priorities of ICE!

Considering these three mission priorities of ICE, it is painfully obvious that some members of your board in addition to the District Attorney, the Mayor of Santa Barbara, Assemblyman Hart, Congressman Salud Carbajal, and Governor Newsom are feeding a dangerous and irresponsible narrative that these law enforcement efforts are irresponsible overkill and unwarranted. Collectively, all these public servants could only make these claims in absolute ignorance of

the facts having to do with the raids on Glasshouse Farms. That is, it appears all the above condemned the raids using inflammatory and shrill language before knowing any of the facts of the child labor violations and the wanted felons that were certainly a focus of the federal law enforcement effort.

Of course, if all the elected mentioned above don't like workplace raids, then they should drop their support of our state's sanctuary policies! That is, the feds would rather pick up these people from our local jails and prisons rather than conduct raids in our neighborhoods and places of work. But your policy to shield people you know could be subject to deportation is serving to exacerbate this situation.

Moreover, how could you collectively ignore the fact that these raids were enforceable and authorized by a warrant? Have you no respect for the law? What would you do if our local law enforcement were getting ambushed on a routine basis, including attempted assassinations, while serving warrants? Would you not seek to prosecute the people involved in haranguing, harassing, and intimidating officers who are doing their job and their duty?

Unfortunately, the officials mentioned above are guilty of aiding and abetting the people who are threatening the lives and safety of our federal agencies that are simply doing their job. That is, you are fueling a narrative that the federal government has no right to be conducting raids and arresting people who are here illegally, especially those who have been convicted of heinous crimes. Nothing could be further from the truth.

We would prefer to work across party lines to address the need for a robust guest worker program that works and the sooner the better, because your words and your actions are making things worse for everyone involved.

Andy Caldwell  
COLAB