



DAVE YOST

OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL

February 19, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

The Honorable Alejandro N. Mayorkas
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

The Honorable Tae D. Johnson
Acting Director
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
Washington, D.C. 20536

Re: Cancellation of Operation Talon

Dear President Biden, Secretary Mayorkas, and Acting Director Johnson:

The undersigned Attorneys General of the States of Ohio, Arizona, North Dakota and Wyoming write to express our deep concern about the recent report¹ that Immigration and Customs Enforcement (“ICE”) has cancelled Operation Talon, a nationwide operation targeting convicted sexual offenders who are in the country illegally for removal from the United States. Whether the specifics of that report are accurate or not, the policy it represents is unacceptable in a society that claims to protect its most vulnerable.

Our objection to your shift in policy is simple: Sexual violence is a unique form of exploitation. The harm it does to its victims cannot, and should not, be equated to any other category of offense. Those who commit, and have been convicted of, acts of sexual violence forfeit certain rights and opportunities. For individuals who are not lawfully present in the United States, one of the things that should be forfeited is the right to remain here.


For the safety and security of our citizens, we call upon you to reverse this unwise and unsafe decision.

¹ See, e.g., https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/new-biden-rules-for-ice-point-to-fewer-arrests-and-deportations-and-a-more-restrained-agency/2021/02/07/faccb854-68c6-11eb-bf81-c618c88ed605_story.html.


Respectfully,



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Ohio Attorney General



Mark Brnovich
Arizona Attorney General



Wayne Stenehjem
North Dakota Attorney General



Bridget Hill
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