Immigration Enforcement Identification Safety (IEIS) Act of 2025

[pronounced "ice act"]
Sen. Mark Warner (D-VA) and Sen. Tim Kaine (D-VA)

Background:

In many well-documented <u>cases</u> across the country, masked ICE officers and agents without clearly visible identification as law enforcement, sometimes arriving in unmarked vehicles, have been arresting individuals on the <u>streets</u> and in sensitive locations, such as <u>courthouses</u>. Such actions put everyone at risk – the targeted individuals, the ICE officers and agents, bystanders who may misunderstand what is happening and may attempt to intervene, and local law enforcement who may be called to the scene. Additionally, the increased use of face coverings and lack of prompt and clear identification have led to an <u>increase</u> in individuals taking advantage of ICE's anonymity to impersonate law enforcement to conduct criminal acts.

The American public encounters Federal, state, local, territorial, campus, and other law enforcement regularly. In the overwhelming majority of these law enforcement encounters, law enforcement officers reveal their faces and identities while performing their duties. There may be risks for doing so, yet a state trooper pulling over a driver at night or a sheriff's deputy standing watch at the courthouse as suspected criminals come and go manage those risks to their own and the public's safety in a transparent and accountable fashion.

Americans rightly demand that those enforcing the law do so with discipline, restraint, transparency, and accountability. The intentional concealment of Federal law enforcement's affiliation and identity during immigration enforcement operations, especially if done to intimidate or to avoid accountability, violates the trust of the American people and compromises the safety of the public and law enforcement during the encounter.

The *Immigration Enforcement Identification Safety Act* seeks to enhance the safety of the public and law enforcement by requiring Federal law enforcement to be clearly identified when conducting immigration enforcement, holding them to the same identification standard of state, local, and other Federal non-immigration law enforcement. Furthermore, the legislation provides law enforcement personnel and their families with the appropriate tools to prevent "doxing/doxxing," or the release, of sensitive personal information.

What the Legislation Does:

The *Immigration Enforcement Identification Safety Act of 2025* or "IEIS Act" requires any officer or agent conducting immigration enforcement operations, including any Federal or non-Federal law enforcement officer, to visibly display their name and unique identifier and the name of their law enforcement organization. This section is nearly identical to the 2021 bipartisan law that required members of the armed forces, including the National Guard, or Federal law enforcement providing support to Federal authorities to respond to a civil disturbance to visibly display their name or individual identifier. Furthermore, most state and local law enforcement entities require law enforcement to identify themselves, including through a visible badge or nameplate with their identification number or name, and are typically prohibited from wearing face coverings while performing their duties. For these reasons, the IEIS Act requires any officer or agent conducting immigration enforcement operations, including any Federal or non-Federal law enforcement officer, to visibly display their face. Exceptions are made for certain investigative and tactical operations and for personal protective equipment for the safety and health of law enforcement officers under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970.

The IEIS Act also provides law enforcement officers conducting immigration enforcement operations whose official duties put them at increased risk of being the target of a threat, intimidation, harassment, stalking, or a similar action with access to privacy-enhancing services by reimbursing 100 percent of the costs incurred to purchase privacy-enhancing services on the open market. Privacy-enhancing services includes personal data privacy services that search the internet for an individual's sensitive personal

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information including a person's personal phone number or home address that could be used to threaten, intimidate, harass, or stalk an individual and remove it from internet websites, platforms, and data brokers. Under the IEIS Act, non-Federal law enforcement performing immigration enforcement functions under 287(g) agreements with ICE are also eligible for reimbursement for privacy-enhancing services. This tool would complement cyber hygiene best practices that should be practiced by individual law enforcement officers.

The IEIS Act grants each agency the authority to fund privacy-enhancing services for their employees from their annual appropriations. In addition to the individual law enforcement employees, the IEIS Act extends access to privacy-enhancing services to the law enforcement officers' families and immediate households in recognition of the risks posed to the families of public servants and the precedent set in the Daniel Anderl Judicial Security and Privacy Act of 2022.

Endorsements:

The *Immigration Enforcement Identification Safety Act* is endorsed by the <u>Law Enforcement Action</u>

<u>Partnership (LEAP)</u>, <u>Immigration Hub</u>, <u>American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA)</u>, and <u>Service Employees International Union (SEIU)</u>.

Additional Information:

The IEIS Act will not suppress freedom of the press, expression, or other First Amendment protected activities, or limit access to lawful and legitimate means of holding federal law enforcement accountable.

As for protecting law enforcement agents, officers, and their families from harm, 18 U.S.C. § 119 already establishes criminal penalties for the release of restricted personal information of employees of the U.S. government and their immediate family if it is with the intent and knowledge that that information will be used to threaten, intimidate, or incite the commission of a crime of violence. 18 U.S.C. § 1114 and 18 U.S.C. § 111 also impose criminal penalties for certain acts of violence or physical aggression against employees of the U.S. government.

Individuals may report acts of misconduct or seek information through the following avenues:

- DHS Office of the Inspector General
- ICE Office of Professional Responsibility
- ICE Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)
- U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary Minority Whistleblowers Reporting Form