

Far-Right Immigration Foe Ken Cuccinelli—Author Of Radical MAGA Project 2025’s Chapter On Gutting Homeland Security Dept.—Leads A Non-Profit That Appears To Be Fundraising From False Law Enforcement Claims And Co-Owns Firm That Could Benefit From His Calls To Privatize TSA

SUMMARY: Ken Cuccinelli—best known for advancing Trump’s far-right [white supremacist](#) vision while helping to [lead](#) the administration’s Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and its U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)—is credited as the [author](#) of the [radical MAGA](#) Project 2025’s playbook on gutting DHS.

Cuccinelli is notably the [Senior Fellow for Immigration and Homeland Security](#) for the Center for Renewing America (CRA), which has drawn plans to [invoke the Insurrection Act](#) on day one of the next conservative administration. CRA is led by former Trump OMB Director and “[right-wing bomb thrower](#)” Russ Vought, who was “[one of Trump’s most trusted officials](#),” and has been credited with [directing about a thousand people](#) to draw Project 2025’s expansive plans.

The most extreme proposals from Cuccinelli’s Project 2025 chapter include:

- The “[primary recommendation](#)” of Cuccinelli’s chapter is “[to dismantle the Department of Homeland Security \[DHS\]](#),” breaking up the department “along its mission lines.”
- Cuccinelli’s chapter [argues](#) that DHS suffers from “the left’s wokeness” and is guilty of “**weaponization against Americans**,” while accusing the Biden administration of turning parts of DHS into an “open-borders agency.”
- Although Cuccinelli’s chapter [accuses](#) DHS of being “politically charged,” it proposed **expanding the number of political appointees** while also calling for **slashing congressional oversight** of DHS and centralizing political decision making at the department by redistributing career staff.
- Cuccinelli’s chapter proposes [using the military](#) to secure the border and build a border wall, allow more rapid expulsions of migrants, **repeal protections for unaccompanied minors**, and even **issue “a formal apology” to border agents accused of whipping migrants**.
- Cuccinelli’s chapter would [expand](#) migrant detentions by increasing detention capacity, including the use of tents, and lowering detention standards, all while **eliminating government watchdogs, including the Office of the Immigration Detention Ombudsman**.

Beyond Cuccinelli’s radical DHS proposals, his credibility could be further undermined by **his leadership of a non-profit that appears to be fundraising off of false claims that it helps law enforcement agencies conduct child trafficking raids and a for-profit firm that appears to offer government services and could benefit from Cuccinelli’s call to privatize certain DHS functions:**

- Cuccinelli [incorporated and currently helps lead](#) 501(c)(3) nonprofit [Mission Safe Harbour](#), which [fundraises](#) off of claims it directly aids federal, state, and local child trafficking stings, even [brandishing](#) official seals of military branches and law enforcement agencies, including DHS’s seal.

- Mission Safe Harbour once touted involvement in having [three dozen “child predators arrested”](#) through several operations but has since [deleted](#) these claims—and its social media [does not mention any specific operations](#) in which it has been involved.
- Cuccinelli’s Mission Safe Harbour is [modeled](#) on the Sound of Freedom-linked Operation Underground Railroad—known as [“QAnon 2.0”](#) and [“MAGA vigilantism”](#)—which also fundraised off claims of helping child trafficking stings but faced probes and [lawsuits](#) over its [“illegal fundraising”](#) from falsely claiming credit for these operations.
- Notably, Cuccinelli previously was a [director](#) for a now-dissolved law enforcement non-profit which had an [“F” grade](#) from a charity watchdog, which reported that the group spent only 30% of its resources on its mission.
- Cuccinelli, who calls for [privatizing](#) DHS’s Transportation Security Administration (TSA), co-owns the firm [Cold Harbour Inc.](#) alongside [former Blackwater mercenary and Operation Underground Railroad leader](#) Dave Lopez. Cold Harbour, which appears to offer [“a comprehensive array”](#) of solutions to governments and other entities, could stand to benefit from Cuccinelli’s privatization proposals.

Ken Cuccinelli, Who Was Illegally Named As Trump’s Acting Director Of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Was Known As “Persona Non Grata” In The U.S. Senate For Attacking Republicans “From The Party’s Right Flank” And Had “No Shot” Of Being Confirmed Homeland Security Secretary Due To His Extremism.

Ken Cuccinelli Was Known As “A Vitriolic Foe Of Gay Rights, Climate Policy, And Birthright Citizenship” Before He Served In The Trump Administration As Deputy Secretary Of Homeland Security And As Acting Director Of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), An Appointment Ruled Illegal By A Federal Judge.

Ken Cuccinelli “Made His Name In Richmond As A Vitriolic Foe Of Gay Rights, Climate Policy, And Birthright Citizenship Before Trump Made Him Boss Of The Country’s Immigration And Naturalization Services [USCIS] In 2019,” Before A Federal Judge Ruled Cuccinelli’s Appointment As Illegal. “The entrance into the hyper-lucrative globe-hopping world of sex-trafficking saviorism marked a departure for Cuccinelli, who made his name in Richmond as a vitriolic foe of gay rights, climate policy, and birthright citizenship before Trump made him boss of the country’s immigration and naturalization services in 2019. A federal judge later ruled the appointment illegal, since it bypassed the Senate, crowning the multiple controversies that attended Cuccinelli’s tenure at USCIS.” [The Daily Beast, [12/12/23](#)]

- **March 2020: A Federal Judge Ruled That Trump’s Appointment Of Ken Cuccinelli—Who Was Also As Acting Director Of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Violated The Federal Vacancies Reform Act.** “A D.C.-based federal judge ruled Sunday that President Donald Trump’s appointment of Ken Cuccinelli as acting U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services director violated the Federal Vacancies Reform Act, a decision that suspends two policies Cuccinelli implemented while leading the agency. Cuccinelli, an immigration hard-liner who was previously attorney general in Virginia, became acting head of USCIS in June, assuming the newly created role of ‘principal deputy director.’ In November, Cuccinelli also assumed the position of ‘senior official performing the duties of the deputy secretary’ at USCIS’ parent agency, the Department of Homeland

Security. In his ruling, U.S. District Judge Randolph Moss said Cuccinelli was never eligible to become acting USCIS chief.” [Politico, [03/01/20](#)]

Cuccinelli Was Acting Director Of USCIS In 2019 And Then Served As Acting Deputy Secretary Of Homeland Security From November 2019 “Through The End Of The Trump Administration.” “Ken Cuccinelli served as Acting Director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services in 2019 and then, from November 2019 through the end of the Trump Administration, as Acting Deputy Secretary for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. During his tenure as Acting Deputy Secretary, Ken also served as the Chief Regulatory Officer for the Department of Homeland Security.” [Project 2025, accessed [04/24/24](#)]

From 2010 To 2014, Cuccinelli Was Attorney General Of Virginia, “Where He Was The First In The Country To Sue Over Obamacare.” “From 2010-2014, Cuccinelli served as Attorney General of Virginia, where he was the first in the country to sue over Obamacare, and he made critical advances against human trafficking, health care fraud, gangs and child exploitation.” [Center for Renewing America, accessed [04/24/24](#)]

From 2002 To 2010, Cuccinelli Served In The Virginia State Senate. “Additionally, Mr. Cuccinelli served in state government in the Virginia State Senate from 2002-2010, and as Virginia’s Attorney General from 2010-2014.” [Committee on House Administration, accessed [04/24/24](#)]

In 2013, Cuccinelli Was The Republican Nominee For Governor Of Virginia, But Lost To Terry McAuliffe. “Cuccinelli was the Republican nominee for Governor of Virginia in the 2013 election. He was the only gubernatorial candidate to file for the party’s statewide primary convention by the January 14, 2013 deadline.[2] He faced Democratic nominee Terry McAuliffe and Libertarian candidate Robert Sarvis in the general election on November 5, 2013, coming in a close second to McAuliffe.” [Ballotpedia, accessed [3/25/24](#)]

Cuccinelli Was Appointed To Two Positions In The Trump Administration In An “Acting Capacity” Because He Was “Almost Uniquely Unpopular Among Many Republicans.”

In June 2019, Former President Trump Appointed Cuccinelli “To Lead The U.S. Citizenship And Immigration Services” In An “Acting Capacity” Because Cuccinelli Would “Have No Shot Of Senate Confirmation.” “President Donald Trump’s decision to appoint Ken Cuccinelli to lead the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services in only an acting capacity should be no surprise considering that he would appear to have no shot of Senate confirmation. That is owed to his tenure as president of the Senate Conservatives Fund, a political action committee with a long track record of working against incumbent Republican senators, challenging them from the party’s right flank.” [Roll Call, [6/10/19](#)]

- **Cuccinelli Is “Almost Uniquely Unpopular Among Many Republicans” After Leading “A Political Action Committee With A Long Track Record Of Working Against Incumbent Republican Senators.”** “President Donald Trump’s decision to appoint Ken Cuccinelli to lead the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services in only an acting capacity should be no surprise considering that he would appear to have no shot of Senate confirmation. That is owed to his tenure as president of the Senate Conservatives Fund, a political action committee with a long track record of working against incumbent Republican senators, challenging them from the party’s right flank.” [Roll Call, [6/10/19](#)]

In November 2019, Cuccinelli Was Appointed Acting Deputy Secretary Of The Department Of Homeland Security (DHS) In A Move The Head Of The House Homeland Security Committee Called ““Legally Questionable.”” “In an email to employees Wednesday, Wolf announced that Cuccinelli, who for the past five months has been acting director of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, the DHS agency that adjudicates immigration benefits, would now serve as the acting deputy secretary. [...] Rep. Bennie Thompson, the Mississippi Democrat who heads the Homeland Security Committee, called the move ‘legally questionable.’” [Roll Call, [11/14/19](#)]

2014: Ken Cuccinelli Became President Of The Senate Conservatives Fund, Vowing To Fight Incumbent Republicans From The Right Wing Of The Party And Embracing The Tea Party Movement, Which Was Known For Racist Rhetoric.

2014: Ken Cuccinelli Became President Of The Senate Conservatives Fund, A “Tea Party-Aligned” Group—The Tea Party Movement Was Known For Racist Rhetoric Against Former President Barack Obama. “Former Virginia Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli, who lost his 2013 GOP bid for governor, is taking on a new role as president of the Senate Conservatives Fund. Cuccinelli joins the tea party-aligned outside group as the establishment of his party is still reeling from House Majority Leader Eric Cantor’s shocking primary loss on Tuesday. Like Cuccinelli, Cantor is from Virginia.” [Politico, [06/11/14](#)]

- **The Tea Party Movement Was Known For Racist Slogans Against Former President Barack Obama.** “Within days of President Obama’s inauguration seven and a half years ago, the Tea Party took national politics by storm. Sympathetic pundits and affiliated politicians claimed that the movement amounted to the formation of a new third party that represented widespread economic concerns, its motivation based on outrage over deficit spending, the stimulus package, and the national debt. Yet coverage of Tea Party rallies also included images of protest signs covered with racist slogans such as ‘A Village in Kenya Is Missing Its Idiot: Deport Obama!’ ‘Congress = Slave Owner; Taxpayer = N**gar,’ and ‘Imam Obama Wants to Ban Pork: Don’t Let Him Steal Your Meat,’ among other inflammatory proclamations.” [Vox, [07/06/16](#)]

Cuccinelli Vowed To “To Continue To Fight To Elect Even More Conservatives,” And “Continuing To Take On Republican Incumbents Who Have Lost Their Way.” ‘Going forward, we’re going to continue to fight to elect even more conservatives,’ Cuccinelli says in a video on the group’s website. ‘That means continuing to stand up to the status quo, continuing to support conservative candidates wherever we find them, and, yes, that means continuing to take on Republican incumbents who have lost their way.’ [Politico, [06/11/14](#)]

By 2019, Cuccinelli Became “Persona Non Grata” The U.S. Senate Due To His “Long Track Record” Of Attacking Republicans “From The Party’s Right Flank” While Leading The Senate Conservatives Fund—Cuccinelli Was Seen As Having “No Chance” Of Senate Confirmation To Lead The Homeland Security Department Due To His Record As A “Fringe Figure.”

2019: Ken Cuccinelli Was Known As “Persona Non Grata” In The U.S. Senate And Had “No Shot” Of Being Confirmed To Lead U.S. Citizenship And Immigration Services After His “Long Track Record” Of Attacking Republicans “From The Party’s Right Flank” While President Of The Senate Conservatives Fund. “President Donald Trump’s decision to appoint Ken Cuccinelli to lead the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services in only an acting capacity should be no surprise considering that he would appear to have no shot of Senate confirmation. That is owed to his tenure as president of the Senate Conservatives Fund, a political action committee with a long track record of working against incumbent Republican senators, challenging them from the party’s right flank.” [Roll Call, [06/10/19](#)]

- **Headline: Why Ken Cuccinelli is persona non grata in the Senate** [Roll Call, [06/10/19](#)]

Previously, When The Trump White House Floated Cuccinelli As A Possible Homeland Security Secretary, Then-Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell Expressed Opposition And A Prominent Republican Strategist Reportedly Said Cuccinelli Was The Only Trump Nominee With “No Chance Of Surviving A Confirmation Process” At The Time. “When Cuccinelli’s name surfaced as a possible nominee

for secretary of Homeland Security earlier this year, McConnell, the Senate majority leader, went out of his way to tell reporters he had made clear to the White House his 'lack of enthusiasm' for the Virginian. Back in April, Josh Holmes, a Republican strategist and longtime McConnell political adviser, called Cuccinelli the only potential Trump nominee being floated at the time who had positively no chance of surviving a confirmation process." [Roll Call, [06/10/19](#)]

Then-House Homeland Security Chairman Bennie Thompson (D-MS) Said, “Mr. Cuccinelli Is An Anti-Immigrant Fringe Figure That Has No Business Leading A Component That Is Supposed To Administer Our Nation’s Legal Immigration System,” Adding That Cuccinelli Was A “Right-Wing Commentator.” “While Cuccinelli is almost uniquely unpopular among many Republicans because of his political forays, he also won’t be very welcome in the House Homeland Security Committee, which oversees his agency. Chairman Bennie Thompson of Mississippi greeted the appointment this way: ‘Mr. Cuccinelli is an anti-immigrant fringe figure that has no business leading a component that is supposed to administer our nation’s legal immigration system. Besides being a right-wing commentator, Cuccinelli is completely unqualified to the lead USCIS and likely wants to decimate the agency Congress charged with handling our immigration and refugee programs.’” [Roll Call, [06/10/19](#)]

Cuccinelli Incorporated And Currently Helps Lead 501(C)(3) Nonprofit Mission Safe Harbour, Which Fundraises Off Of Claims It Directly Aids Federal, State, And Local Child Trafficking Stings, Even Brandishing Official Seals Of Military Branches And Law Enforcement Agencies...

Ken Cuccinelli Is A Current Director And Registered Agent For Free Them All, Inc.—Cuccinelli Was Also The Incorporator, Initial Registered Agent, And An Initial Director For The Group, Which Formed In November 2022 And Was Granted Tax-Exempt Status By The IRS In March 2023.

Ken Cuccinelli Is A Director For Free Them All, Inc., Formed In Virginia In December 2022:

Entity Name: Free Them All, Incorporated	Entity ID: 11467959
Entity Type: Nonstock Corporation	Entity Status: Active
Series LLC: N/A	Reason for Status: Active and In Good Standing
Formation Date: 12/05/2022	Status Date: 01/30/2024
VA Qualification Date: 12/05/2022	Period of Duration: Perpetual

[...]

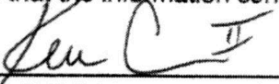
Title	Director	Name	Address	Last Updated
	Yes	KENNETH T CUCCINELLI II	10007 N HARRIS FARM RD, SPOTSYLVANIA, VA, 22553, USA	12/26/2023
	Yes	DAVID LOPEZ	7275 STARLIGHT LN, Boones Mill, VA, 24065, USA	12/05/2022
President	Yes	THOMAS WILLIAMS	5112 PORTSMOUTH RD, Fairfax, VA, 22032, USA	12/26/2023

[Free Them All Inc. Virginia State Corporation Commission, accessed [04/23/24](#)]

Cuccinelli Was Listed As A Director For Free Them All Inc. In Its 2023 Annual Report, Signed December 2023:

Mark appropriate box unless area below is blank: <input type="checkbox"/> Information is correct <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information is incorrect <input type="checkbox"/> Delete information	If the block to the left is blank or contains incorrect data, please mark appropriate box and enter information below: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Correction <input type="checkbox"/> Addition <input type="checkbox"/> Replacement
OFFICER <input type="checkbox"/> DIRECTOR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAME: KENNETH T CUCCINELLI TITLE: ADDRESS: 1007 N HARRIS FARM RD CITY/ST/ZIP: SPOTSYLVANIA, VA 22553-	OFFICER <input type="checkbox"/> DIRECTOR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAME: Kenneth T. Cuccinelli II TITLE: ADDRESS: 10007 N. Harris Farm Rd. CITY/ST/ZIP: Spotsylvania, Va. 22553

I affirm that the information contained in this report is accurate and complete as of the date below.


 SIGNATURE OF DIRECTOR/OFFICER LISTED IN THIS REPORT

Kenneth T. Cuccinelli, Director
 PRINTED NAME AND CORPORATE TITLE

12/4/23
 DATE

[2023 Annual Report, Virginia State Corporation Commission, accessed [04/23/24](#)]

Ken Cuccinelli Is The Registered Agent For Free Them All, Inc., Through The Same Office As His Personal Law Practice:

Registered Agent Information

RA Type: Individual
 RA Qualification: Member of the Virginia State Bar
 Name: Kenneth T. Cuccinelli II

Locality: SPOTSYLVANIA COUNTY
 Registered Office Address: 10007 N HARRIS FARM RD,
 SPOTSYLVANIA, VA, 22553, USA

[Free Them All Inc., Virginia State Corporation Commission, accessed [04/23/24](#)]

- **Ken Cuccinelli's Law Office Is Also Located At 10007 North Harris Farm Road, Spotsylvania, VA 22553:**

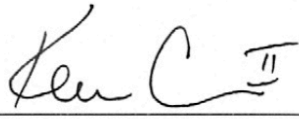
KENNETH T. CUCCINELLI, II
 LAW OFFICE OF
 KENNETH T. CUCCINELLI, II
 10007 North Harris Farm Road
 Spotsylvania, Virginia 22553
 (703) 282-9466
 ktc21968@gmail.com

[U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, [01/11/23](#)]

- **Cuccinelli Co-Owns The Spotsylvania Address With His Wife.** "For all three filings, Cuccinelli used the address in Spotsylvania, an hour-and-a-half south of D.C., that local property records show the one-time Old Dominion gubernatorial aspirant co-owns with his wife." [The Daily Beast, [12/12/23](#)]

Cuccinelli Was The Incorporator, Initial Registered Agent, And An Initial Director Of Free Them All, Inc.:

11. The incorporator is Kenneth T. Cuccinelli, II, of 10007 N. Harris Farm, Rd., Spotsylvania, Va. 22553. His phone number is 804-286-2550. The date of signature is Nov. 23, 2022.

 11/23/22

Kenneth T. Cuccinelli, II
Incorporator, Initial Registered Agent, and Initial Director

[Articles of Incorporation, Virginia State Corporation Commission, accessed [04/23/24](#)]

Free Them All Inc. Received Its IRS Approval Letter To Be A 501(c)(3) Tax Exempt Organization In May 2023:



Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service
Tax Exempt and Government Entities
P.O. Box 2508
Cincinnati, OH 45201

Date:
05/23/2023
Employer ID number:
92-1528262
Person to contact:
Name: Mitch Steele
ID number: 31360
Telephone: 877-829-5500
Accounting period ending:
December 31
Public charity status:
170(b)(1)(A)(vi)

FREE THEM ALL INCORPORATED
C/O KENNETH CUCCINELLI
10007 NORTH HARRIS FARM ROAD
SPOTSYLVANIA, VA 22553-1975

[EIN: 92-1528262, Determination Letter, Internal Revenue Service, accessed [04/23/24](#)]

Free Them All Or Mission Safe Harbour Do Not Appear To Be Registered As Charities In Virginia, Where They Are Based.

Free Them All, Mission Safe Harbour, Or Mission Safe Harbor Did Not Appear To Be Registered With The Virginia Charitable Organization Database, Despite Being Based In Virginia:

SEARCH OUR CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION DATABASE

Result of Searching for "free them all"

No record found!

[New Search](#)

[Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, accessed [04/23/24](#)]

SEARCH OUR CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION DATABASE

Result of Searching for "mission safe harbour"

No record found!

[New Search](#)

[Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, accessed [04/23/24](#)]

SEARCH OUR CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION DATABASE

Result of Searching for "mission safe harbor"

No record found!

[New Search](#)

[Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, accessed [04/23/24](#)]

- **“Mission Safe Harbour” And “Mission Safe Harbor” Were Registered As Fictitious Names For Free Them All Inc. In March 2023:**

Name History Details			
Effective Start Date	Effective End Date	Name	Name Type
03/31/2023	N/A	Mission Safe Harbour	Fictitious Name
03/30/2023	N/A	Mission Safe Harbor	Fictitious Name
12/05/2022	N/A	Free Them All, Incorporated	Legal Name

[Free Them All Inc. Name History, Virginia State Corporation Commission, accessed [04/23/24](#)]

Free Them All Inc. Has The Same IRS Employer Identification Number As Mission Safe Harbour, A Fictitious Name For The Group. “Virginia business records reveal that Mission Safe Harbour is a fictitious name for an entity incorporated last December called Free Them All Inc. And the IRS-issued employer identification number on Mission Safe Harbour’s donation page matches the one on the letter the federal tax collector sent Free Them All Inc. in May, approving its application for charity status.” [The Daily Beast, [12/12/23](#)]

- **“Mission Safe Harbour” And “Mission Safe Harbor” Were Registered As Fictitious Names For Free Them All Inc. In March 2023:**

Name History Details			
Effective Start Date	Effective End Date	Name	Name Type
03/31/2023	N/A	Mission Safe Harbour	Fictitious Name
03/30/2023	N/A	Mission Safe Harbor	Fictitious Name
12/05/2022	N/A	Free Them All, Incorporated	Legal Name

[Free Them All Inc. Name History, Virginia State Corporation Commission, accessed [04/23/24](#)]

Mission Safe Harbour, Which Launched Publicly In The Fall Of 2023, Is A 501(c)(3) Tax Exempt Nonprofit Which Claims To Provide “Critical Resources, Manpower, And Operational Knowledge To Local, State, And Federal Law Enforcement Agencies” To Fight Child Trafficking...

Mission Safe Harbour Launched On Social Media In The Fall Of 2023, Claiming, “We Train Skilled Military Veterans To Integrate Alongside Law Enforcement Agencies, Running Operations To Combat Child Exploitation By Locating And Arresting Pedophiles.” “Mission Safe Harbour went live on Twitter on Sept. 21, and on Telegram two weeks later, with identical messages and a video of beefy men in tactical gear counting ammo and firing weapons at close-range targets. Spliced into the footage are hazy clips of similarly clad figures bursting into seedy motel rooms and tackling faceless perpetrators inside. ‘Introducing Mission Safe Harbour,’ the social media posts read. ‘We are a non-profit organization and our mission is PROTECTING CHILDREN. We train skilled military veterans to integrate alongside law enforcement agencies, running operations to combat child exploitation by locating and arresting pedophiles.’” [The Daily Beast, [12/12/23](#)]

- **Mission Safe Harbour Only Had 2 Posts On X, As Of April 23, 2024:**



[X Profile for @HarbourOps, accessed [04/23/24](#)]

Mission Safe Harbour States That It Is A 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Organization That Provides “Critical Resources, Manpower, And Operational Knowledge To Local, State, And Federal Law Enforcement Agencies Focused On Combating Child Exploitation And Human Trafficking.” “We are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization committed to harnessing the advanced skills and expertise of military veterans and applying them to a new mission... targeting child predators. We provide critical resources, manpower, and

operational knowledge to local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies focused on combating child exploitation and human trafficking.” [Mission Safe Harbour, accessed [04/23/24](#)]

Mission Safe Harbour Claims, “We Train Military Veterans To Integrate Alongside Law Enforcement Agencies, Running Operations To Combat Child Exploitation By Locating And Arresting Pedophiles”:



Mission Safe Harbour
@HarbourOps



Introducing Mission Safe Harbour

We are a non-profit organization and our mission is PROTECTING CHILDREN. We train skilled military veterans to integrate alongside law enforcement agencies, running operations to combat child exploitation by locating and arresting pedophiles.



8:38 PM · Sep 21, 2023 · 160.6K Views

[X Post by @HarbourOps, 09/21/23, accessed [04/23/24](#)]

...Mission Safe Harbour Claims To “Work At The Operational Level, In The Trenches” And To “Collaborate Closely With Law Enforcement Partners,” While Brandishing The Official Seals Of Various Military Branches And Law Enforcement Agencies, Including The Department Of Homeland Security...

Mission Safe Harbour Claims To “Work At The Operational Level, In The Trenches And Underground Where The Criminals Hide.” “We work at the operational level, in the trenches and underground where the criminals hide, rooting them out to remove the perpetrators of these heinous crimes.” [Mission Safe Harbour, accessed [04/23/24](#)]

Mission Safe Harbour Claims “Our Experts Collaborate Closely With Law Enforcement Partners” While Displaying The Seals Of Various Military And Law Enforcement Agencies, Including The U.S. Department Of Homeland Security:

Our Team

Mission Safe Harbour comprises a team of exceptionally proficient individuals hailing from intelligence, military, special operations, and law enforcement units. Possessing extensive expertise in global operations and diverse backgrounds, our experts collaborate closely with law enforcement partners to tackle intricate challenges with remarkable efficacy. Leveraging their vast experience in counter-terrorism operations, our team skillfully repurposes their specialized abilities to combat the escalating instances of crimes related to child exploitation.



[Mission Safe Harbour, accessed [04/23/24](#)]

...Mission Safe Harbour Tells Potential Donors That Their “Tax-Deductible” Giving Will Be Used In “Collaborating With Law Enforcement To Bring Criminals To Justice.”

Mission Safe Harbour Tells Potential Donors That Their “Tax-Deductible Contributions” Will Be Aimed At “Collaborating With Law Enforcement To Bring Criminals To Justice”:

Your Mission... is to support ours...

By making tax-deductible contributions, you will provide direct support to initiatives aimed at preventing child exploitation, exposing human trafficking, rescuing victims, collaborating with law enforcement to bring criminals to justice, & offering assistance for the well-being and future prospects of those affected.

[DONATE](#)

[Mission Safe Harbour, accessed [04/23/24](#)]

Mission Safe Harbour’s Promotional Video Shows Shots Of Ammo, Armored Men Training, And A Raid Of A Hotel Room.

A Video On Mission Safe Harbour’s Main Page Includes Shots Of Ammo, Armored Men Training With Assault Rifles, And Men Storming A Hotel Room:





[Mission Safe Harbour, accessed [04/23/24](#)]

Mission Safe Harbour Once Claimed To Have Been Involved In Having Three Dozen “Child Predators Arrested,” But Has Since Deleted These Claims, And Its Social Media Does Not Mention Any Specific Operations In Which It Has Been Involved.

In December 2023, Mission Safe Harbour Claimed To Have Been Involved In 8 Operations And Claimed Three Dozen “Child Predators Arrested,” But No Longer Advertised These Claims By April 2024.

As Of December 2023, Mission Safe Harbour Claimed To Have Completed 8 “Operations” And Had 36 “Child Predators Arrested.” “Finally, Mission Safe Harbour also keeps the exact nature of its activities vague. The front page of its website features a pair of tickers, listing ‘Operations to date: 8’ and ‘Child Predators Arrested: 36,’ but provides no details on the raids or the arresting authorities. The figures have remained unchanged since the day the group announced its existence on Twitter.” [The Daily Beast, [12/12/23](#)]

By April 2024, Mission Safe Harbour No Longer Appeared To Claim Involvement In Specific Numbers Of Operations Or Arrests. [Mission Safe Harbour, accessed [04/23/24](#)]

Mission Safe Harbour’s X Profile, Which Only Had Two Posts As Of April 2024, Did Not Mention Any Specific Operations.

Mission Safe Harbour Only Had 2 Posts On X, As Of April 23, 2024:

← **Mission Safe Harbour**

2 posts



Follow

Mission Safe Harbour

@HarbourOps

[X Profile for @HarbourOps, accessed [04/23/24](#)]

- **Neither Of The Two Posts Detailed Any Specific Operations That Mission Safe Harbour Might Have Aided:**



Mission Safe Harbour @HarbourOps · Sep 21, 2023



Introducing Mission Safe Harbour

We are a non-profit organization and our mission is PROTECTING CHILDREN. We train skilled military veterans to integrate alongside law enforcement agencies, running operations to combat child exploitation by locating and arresting pedophiles.



52 410 853 160K



Mission Safe Harbour @HarbourOps · Sep 21, 2023



Your Mission, Support Ours...

By making tax-deductible contributions, you provide direct support to initiatives aimed at preventing child exploitation, rescuing victims, collaborating with law enforcement to bring criminals to justice.

Learn more below:

	missionsafeharbour.org Mission Safe Harbour
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5 40 72 3.1K

[X Profile for @HarbourOps, accessed [04/23/24](#)]

Cuccinelli’s Mission Safe Harbour Is Modeled On The Sound Of Freedom-Linked Operation Underground Railroad—Known As “QAnon 2.0” And “MAGA Vigilantism”—Which Also Fundraised Off Claims Of Helping Child Trafficking Stings But Faced Probes And Lawsuits Over Its “Illegal Fundraising” From Claiming Credit For These Operations.

Cuccinelli Launched Free Them All Inc./Mission Safe Harbour To Tap Into The “Conservative Cause Célèbre” Of Combatting “Supposed Pedophile Rings,” With His Groups Being Modeled On The Sound Of Freedom-Linked Operation Underground Railroad, Known As “QAnon 2.0” And “MAGA Vigilantism.”

Cuccinelli Launched Free Them All Inc. To Tap Into The “Conservative Cause Célèbre” Of Taking Down “Supposed Pedophile Rings.” “President Donald Trump’s controversial border enforcer has tapped into another conservative cause célèbre—staging dramatic raids to take down supposed pedophile rings.” [The Daily Beast, [12/12/23](#)]

Mission Safe Harbour’s “Most Obvious Model” Was The “Trump-And QAnon-Friendly Outfit Operation Underground Railroad.” “The most obvious model for Mission Safe Harbour, which claims on its website to have a team of ex-military operators that ‘conducts operations and provides critical support to non-profit organizations, law enforcement, and government agencies,’ is the Trump- and QAnon-friendly outfit Operation Underground Railroad.” [The Daily Beast, [12/12/23](#)]

- **Sound Of Freedom Has Been Called “QAnon 2.0” And “MAGA Vigilantism.”** “QAnon 2.0: “Sound of Freedom” and the rise of MAGA vigilantism [...] Whatever the original intentions of the filmmakers may have been, “Sound of Freedom” arrived in theaters as a thinly disguised QAnon recruitment film whose star, Jim Caviezel, is an evangelical Christian who has said he believes in the central myth of that conspiracy theory: that innocent children are being kidnapped by Satanists, dragged into underground dungeons and tortured to manufacture a chemical called “Adrenochrome,” whose consumption keeps the privileged elite forever youthful.” [Salon, [09/02/23](#)]

Mission Safe Harbour Is Allied With A Group Founded By The “Former Lieutenant” Of Ex-Federal Agent Tim Ballard, Who “Inspired The Movie Sound Of Freedom” And Was “Reportedly Investigated For Sexual Misconduct” While Leading Operation Underground Railroad.

Mission Safe Harbour Had An Alliance With The Child Liberation Foundation, Founded By Paul Hutchinson, Who “Reportedly Felt The Breasts Of An Underage Sex-Trafficking Victim” And “A Former Lieutenant” To Ex-Federal Agent Tim Ballard, “Whose Story Inspired The Movie Sound Of Freedom.” “And helping him is a former lieutenant to the allegedly perverted ex-federal agent whose story inspired the movie Sound of Freedom.” [The Daily Beast, [12/12/23](#)]

- **Tim Ballard, The “The Real-Life Inspiration For The Controversial Film Sound Of Freedom, Was Reportedly Investigated For Sexual Misconduct While Leading Anti-Sex-Trafficking Organization Operation Underground Railroad, And Producer Paul Hutchinson Reportedly Felt The Breasts Of An Underage Sex-Trafficking Victim.”** “Tim Ballard, the real-life inspiration for the controversial film Sound of Freedom, was reportedly investigated for sexual misconduct while leading anti-sex-trafficking organization Operation Underground Railroad, and producer Paul Hutchinson reportedly felt the breasts of an underage sex-trafficking victim, according to Vice.” [Forbes, [09/21/23](#)]
- **Hutchinson Was Affiliated With The Child Liberation Foundation** “Another man involved with the movie Sound of Freedom has been accused of sexual misconduct, this time for groping the breasts of an allegedly underage sex trafficking victim. Paul Hutchinson served as executive producer of the film, which follows Tim Ballard, founder of Operation Underground Railroad (OUR), and his efforts to combat child trafficking. [...] The incident was captured on video by OUR. While Hutchinson has not denied it happened, he has said the trafficking victim was over 18 at the time, according to a report in Vice News. Newsweek has reached out to Hutchinson via email through the Child Liberation Foundation, with which he is currently affiliated after leaving OUR.” [Newsweek, [09/20/23](#)]

- **Hutchinson Was The Founder And Spokesman Of The Child Liberation Foundation, As Of April 2024.** [Child Liberation Foundation, accessed [04/23/24](#)]



[...]



[Child Liberation Foundation, accessed [04/23/24](#)]

Operation Underground Railroad, Which Similarly Tried To Fundraise On Claims It Provides “Critical Resources To Law Enforcement And Preventative Efforts” Against Child Trafficking, Reportedly Faced Investigations And Lawsuits Over “Illegal Fundraising Efforts” By Falsely Taking Credit For Arrests And Rescue Operations.

October 2020: Davis County, Utah Attorney Troy Rawlings Announced An Investigation Into Operation Underground Railroad (OUR). “A Utah prosecutor is investigating Operation Underground Railroad - one of the best-known organizations combating human trafficking. Davis County Attorney Troy Rawlings confirmed the investigation in a brief statement to FOX 13. ‘We’ve received complaints and are in the process of reviewing those complaints,’ Rawlings said.” [Fox 13 Salt Lake City, [10/07/20](#)]

Although The Subject Of The Investigation Was Unknown, Rawlings Had Recently Made Posts Implying “A Local Nonprofit Was Conducting Illegal Fundraising Efforts By Taking Credit For Arrests Made By The Davis County Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force.” “Neither the letter nor Rawlings statement specified why O.U.R. — as the anti-trafficking organization is often called — is under investigation. However, in recent posts to his Instagram account, Rawlings implied a local nonprofit was conducting illegal fundraising efforts by taking credit for arrests made by the Davis County Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force. Rawlings did not name the charity.” [Fox 13 Salt Lake City, [10/07/20](#)]

Rawlings Wrote, “Please Beware,’ [...] ‘Of Any Individual, Entity Or Organization Who Solicits Your Money And May Be Claiming Credit For Work To Protect Children That Is Actually Done By Our Task Force And/Or Other Law-Enforcement Organizations In Utah And Around The World.’” “Please beware,” Rawlings wrote on Instagram, ‘of any individual, entity or organization who solicits your money and may be claiming credit for work to protect children that is actually done by our task force and/or other law-enforcement organizations in Utah and around the world.’” [Fox 13 Salt Lake City, [10/07/20](#)]

Rawlings Added That The Nonprofit, Suspected Of Being OUR, “Had Absolutely Zero Involvement In Any Of These Arrests And Successful Prosecutions.” “Get the details before parting with your cash...

They have had absolutely zero involvement in any of these arrests and successful prosecutions you see on display on the 'Wall of Shame' in the Davis County Attorney's Office.” [Fox 13 Salt Lake City, [10/07/20](#)]

Similar To Cuccinelli’s Mission Safe Harbour, OUR Claimed It “Exist(s) To Rescue Children From Sex Trafficking And Sexual Exploitation” And To ‘Provide Critical Resources To Law Enforcement And Preventative Efforts That Benefit At-Risk Children Worldwide.’” “Ballard’s bio states that prior to starting Operation Underground Railroad in 2013, he was an agent at the Department of Homeland Security for 12 years, where he investigated crimes against children. According to the organization’s website, Operation Underground Railroad ‘exist(s) to rescue children from sex trafficking and sexual exploitation” and to ‘provide critical resources to law enforcement and preventative efforts that benefit at-risk children worldwide.’” [Deseret News, [05/12/23](#)]

Sources Familiar With Rawlings’ Probe Said It Involved OUR’s Alleged “Misleading Claims To Donors And The Public About The Work It Does, And How Directly Involved It Is In Rescue Operations.” “Several people familiar with the investigation, however, told VICE World News that it concerns whether OUR has, in recent years, made misleading claims to donors and the public about the work it does, and how directly involved it is in rescue operations.” [Vice, [12/10/20](#)]

OUR’s Leader Tim Ballard Was Sued By Seven Plaintiffs Who Alleged That Utah Attorney General Sean Reyes Wrongly “Lent Credibility To Ballard And Our, While Also Aiding In Fundraising,” With State Lawmakers Suggesting A Potential Audit Of The Group. “The decadelong relationship between Utah Attorney General Sean Reyes and anti-child-trafficking advocate Tim Ballard is under scrutiny as the accusations of sexual misconduct and questionable business practices stack up against the embattled founder of Operation Underground Railroad. [...] Recently, attorneys for seven plaintiffs suing Ballard say the men’s friendship lent credibility to Ballard and OUR, while also aiding in fundraising. Utah lawmakers have suggested that an audit of financial and personal support might be in order.” [The Salt Lake Tribune, [10/27/23](#)]

- **Seven Plaintiffs Sued Ballard In Two Lawsuits.** “A pair of lawsuits filed by seven individuals accusing Ballard of sexual misconduct highlight OUR founder’s friendship with the attorney general. On Wednesday, Alan Mortensen, who is representing the seven plaintiffs accusing Ballard of sexual assault and financial misconduct, said Reyes’ endorsements of Ballard and OUR gave credibility in the eyes of donors. He also said the relationship warrants a more extensive investigation.” [The Salt Lake Tribune, [10/12/23](#)]

Cuccinelli Previously Helped Lead A Now-Dissolved Law Enforcement Non-Profit Which Had An “F” Grade From A Charity Watchdog.

Ken Cuccinelli Was Previously A Director For The Now-Dissolved Law Enforcement Action Network, Which Had An “F” Grade From Charity Watch And Used Only 30% Of Its Resources On Program Work.

Ken Cuccinelli Was Previously A Director For The Law Enforcement Action Network And Its Related Organization, The Law Enforcement Legal Defense Fund:

(6) Ken Cuccinelli Director

[Law Enforcement Legal Defense Fund IRS Form 990 via ProPublica, 2019, [05/06/20](#)]

(7) Ken Cuccinelli
 Director

[Law Enforcement Action Network IRS Form 990 via ProPublica, 2018, [11/06/19](#)]

- The Law Enforcement Action Network Disclosed That It Was Related To The Law Enforcement Legal Defense Fund, With The Two Organizations Sharing Addresses:

Part II Identification of Related Tax-Exempt Organizations. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 34, because it had one or more related tax-exempt organizations during the tax year.							
(a) Name, address, and EIN of related organization	(b) Primary activity	(c) Legal domicile (state or foreign country)	(d) Exempt Code section	(e) Public charity status (if section 501(c)(3))	(f) Direct controlling entity	(g) Section 512(b)(13) controlled entity?	
						Yes	No
Law Enforcement Legal Defense Fund - 52-1095066, 2560 Huntington Avenue Suite 100, Alexandria, VA 22303	Support and defend the law enforcement profession	District of Columbia	501(c)(3)	Line 7			X

[Law Enforcement Action Network IRS Form 990 via ProPublica, 2018, [11/06/19](#)]

C Name of organization	
The Law Enforcement Action Network	
Doing business as	
Number and street (or P.O. box if mail is not delivered to street address)	Room/suite
2560 Huntington Ave	100
City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code	
Alexandria, VA 22303	

[Law Enforcement Action Network IRS Form 990 via ProPublica, 2018, [11/06/19](#)]

The Law Enforcement Action Network, Which Dissolved In 2019, Had An “F” Grade From Charity Watch, Which Found Only 31% Of The Group’s Resources Was “Spend On Programs Relative To Overhead”:

Law Enforcement Action Network (DISSOLVED) SAVE

CharityWatch report issued August 2017 ⓘ

F

CharityWatch Grade ⓘ

Our independent grade based on a [number of factors](#).

31%



Program Percentage ⓘ

Amount spent on programs relative to overhead.

\$82



Cost to Raise \$100 ⓘ

Amount spent to raise \$100 of contributions.

[Charity Watch, accessed [04/23/24](#)]

- **The Law Enforcement Action Network “Ceased Operations In December 2018 And Filed Articles Of Dissolution On October 8, 2019.”** “In 2012, the Law Enforcement Action Network (LEAN) was launched to demand action on the issues that are keeping men and women in uniform from doing their job of protecting American citizens. LEAN ceased operations in December 2018 and filed articles of dissolution on October 8, 2019.” [Law Enforcement Legal Defense Fund, [05/11/21](#)]

Ken Cuccinelli, Who Calls For Privatizing DHS’s Transportation Security Administration, Co-Owns The Firm Cold Harbour Inc. Alongside A Former Blackwater Mercenary And Operation Underground Railroad Leader—Cold Harbour Appears To Offer “A Comprehensive Array” Of Solutions To Governments And Other Entities.

Ken Cuccinelli Was Credited For Being The Author Of Project 2025’s Chapter On Homeland Security, Although Cuccinelli Included A Note Claiming He “Wrote Only A Small Portion Of The Chapter” And That He Coordinated “The Efforts Of Experts.”

Ken Cuccinelli Authored Project 2025’s Chapter On The Department Of Homeland Security:

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Ken Cuccinelli

[Project 2025, accessed [04/24/24](#)]

Project 2025, Led By The Conservative Heritage Foundation, Is A Radical MAGA Plan To “Roll Back Nothing Less Than 100 Years” Of “Liberal Encroachment” Through The Administrative State—The Plan Proposes To “Defund The Department Of Justice, Dismantle The FBI, Break Up The Department Of Homeland Security And Eliminate The Departments Of Education And Commerce.” “In truth, the program laid out by Dans and his fellow Trumpers, called Project 2025, is far more ambitious than anything Ronald Reagan dreamed up. Dans, from his seat inside The Heritage Foundation, and scores of conservative groups aligned with his program are seeking to roll back nothing less than 100 years of what they see as liberal encroachment on Washington. They want to overturn what began as Woodrow Wilson’s creation of a federal administrative elite and later grew into a vast, unaccountable and mostly liberal bureaucracy (as conservatives view it) under Franklin Roosevelt’s New Deal and Lyndon Johnson’s Great Society, numbering about two and a quarter million federal workers today. They aim to defund the Department of Justice, dismantle the FBI, break up the Department of Homeland Security and eliminate the Departments of Education and Commerce, to name just a few of their larger targets. [...] And they want to ensure that what remains of this slashed-down bureaucracy is reliably MAGA conservative — not just for the next president but for a long time to come — and that the White House maintains total control of it.” [Politico, [09/19/23](#)]

In An Author’s Note At The End Of The Chapter, Cuccinelli Claimed To Have Only Written A Small Portion Of The DHS Chapter For Project 2025. “AUTHOR’S NOTE: I had the honor of coordinating the efforts of the experts listed as contributors to this book, nearly all of whom have spent more time inside or interacting with the Department of Homeland Security than myself. I wrote only a small portion of the chapter and relied on the contributors’ experience and expertise to give the chapter both its depth and policy impact.

No views expressed herein should be attributed to any single contributor.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 167, [2023](#)]

- **Cuccinelli Wrote “No Views Expressed Herein Should Be Attributed To Any Single Contributor.”** [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 167, [2023](#)]

The “Primary Recommendation” Of Cuccinelli’s Chapter Is “To Dismantle The Department Of Homeland Security [DHS],” Breaking Up The Department “Along Its Mission Lines.”

Cuccinelli’s Chapter Proposed Dismantling The Department Of Homeland Security (DHS), Stating “Our Primary Recommendation Is That The President Pursue Legislation To Dismantle The Department Of Homeland Security” And To Break Up The Department “Along Its Mission Lines.” “Our primary recommendation is that the President pursue legislation to dismantle the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). After 20 years, it has not gelled into ‘One DHS.’ Instead, its various components’ different missions have outweighed its decades-long attempt to function as one department, rendering the whole disjointed rather than cohesive. Breaking up the department along its mission lines would facilitate mission focus and provide opportunities to reduce overhead and achieve more limited government.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 133, [2023](#)]

Cuccinelli’s Chapter Proposes Privatizing Transportation Security Administration Screening (TSA) And The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) National Flood Insurance Program.

Project 2025 Proposed “Removing All Unions” In DHS “For National Security Purposes.” “These opportunities include privatizing TSA screening and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) National Flood Insurance Program, reforming FEMA emergency spending to shift the majority of preparedness and response costs to states and localities instead of the federal government, eliminating most of DHS’s grant programs, and removing all unions in the department for national security purposes.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 135, [2023](#)]

Cuccinelli Co-Owns A Firm Named Cold Harbour Inc. Alongside Dave Lopez, A Veteran Of Mercenary Firm Blackwater, Former Navy SEAL, And Former “Number Two” At Operation Underground Railroad.

Cuccinelli Is Treasurer For Miami-Based Cold Harbour Inc., Whose Other Officers Include President/Director Thomas Williams, Director/Secretary David Lopez, And Director Foster Coulson:

2023 FLORIDA PROFIT CORPORATION ANNUAL REPORT

DOCUMENT# P22000074586

Entity Name: COLD HARBOUR INC.

Current Principal Place of Business:

433 PLAZA ROAD
SUITE 275
BOCA RATON, FL 33432

[...]

Officer/Director Detail :

Title PRESIDENT, DIRECTOR
Name WLLIAMS, THOMAS
Address 5112 PORTSMOUTH RD.
City-State-Zip: FAIRFAX VA 22032

Title DIRECTOR, SECRETARY
Name LOPEZ, DAVID
Address 10250 MILL CREEK RD
City-State-Zip: BENT MOUNTAIN VA 24059

Title TREASURER
Name CUCCINELLI, KENNETH
Address 10007 N HARRIS FARM RD
City-State-Zip: SPOTSYLVANIA VA 22553

Title DIRECTOR
Name COULSON, FOSTER
Address 10067 COULSON PLACE-PORT
 ALBERNI
City-State-Zip: BC, CANADA V9Y9C6

[Florida Division of Corporations, [09/21/23](#)]

Dave Lopez Has Been Described As A Veteran Of The Navy SEALs And Mercenary Firm Blackwater, As Well As “Scandal-Plagued Anti-Sex Trafficking Group Operation Underground Railroad”—Lopez Also “Co-Owns Multiple Supplement Companies Catering To Anti-Vaxxers”:

- **Dave Lopez Has Been Described As “A Veteran Not Just Of The Navy SEALs But Of Mercenary Firm Blackwater And Scandal-Plagued Anti-Sex Trafficking Group Operation Underground Railroad.”** “According to LinkedIn, The Wellness Company is the child of an unlikely pairing: Foster Coulson, scion of a Canadian logging and aviation dynasty—and Dave Lopez, whom online profiles identify as a veteran not just of the Navy SEALs but of mercenary firm Blackwater and scandal-plagued anti-sex trafficking group Operation Underground Railroad. The duo did not respond to questions from The Daily Beast, and The Wellness Company and its affiliates did not answer or even acknowledge repeated queries by phone and email.” [The Daily Beast, [12/01/23](#)]
- **Dave Lopez Was Once The “Number Two In Operations” For Operation Underground Railroad.** “Dave Lopez is a former Navy SEAL who first become involved with OUR in 2013, when, after being introduced to the organization by a former fellow SEAL, he participated in a mission in Colombia called Operation Triple Take, a sting operation aimed at child sex traffickers in which OUR worked with Colombian law enforcement and the Department of Homeland Security. [...] Around 2016, Ballard offered Lopez a larger role in the organization, essentially as Ballard’s number two in operations. (This is according to notes taken by Davis County investigator Bryan Purdy from an interview of Lopez that he and FBI special agent Kevin Luke carried out in October 2020.)” [Vice, [09/26/23](#)]
- **Lopez “Co-Owns Multiple Supplement Companies Catering To Anti-Vaxxers.”** “As The Daily Beast reported last month, Lopez co-owns multiple supplement companies catering to anti-vaxxers, one of which entered a promotion with Mission Safe Harbour to send a slice of the sales of its kids’ vitamins to the nonprofit.” [The Daily Beast, [12/12/23](#)]

Foster Coulson Is A Leader In The “Right-Wing ‘Medical Freedom’ Movement,” Which “Opposes Vaccine Requirements And Public Health Protections.” “The Wellness Company’s top brass are leaders in the ‘medical freedom’ movement. [...] What that high-minded rhetoric doesn’t mention, though, is that The Wellness Company is not just an ordinary medical practice of community-minded physicians. Rather, it is a new company that says it is part of the right-wing “medical freedom” movement—which sees government interference in health care as dangerous. Over the last three years of the pandemic, the movement has grown as it opposes vaccine requirements and public health protections. [...] Founded in June 2022, The Wellness Company is the project of Canadian entrepreneur Foster Coulson, whose family made its fortune manufacturing firefighting planes. In a September episode of a right-wing podcast called House of Mears, Coulson told the origin story.” [Mother Jones, [03/07/23](#)]

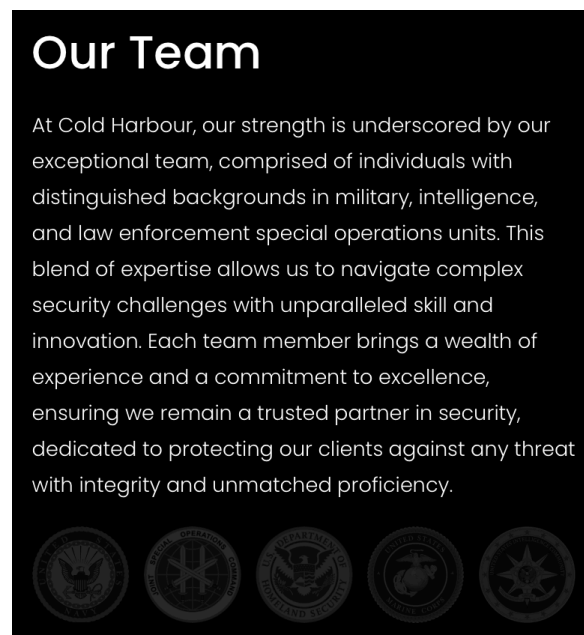
What Appears To Be Cold Harbour’s Site Advertises ““A Comprehensive Array Of Customized Solutions” For Governments And Other Entities, Offering “Scalable” Solutions To “Large-Scale Operations.”

A Site For An Entity Names Cold Harbour Advertises “A Comprehensive Array Of Customized Solutions, Encompassing Risk Management, Crisis Intervention, And Operational, And Protective Services Tailored To Meet The Unique Needs Of Businesses, Governments, Non-Profits, NGOs, And Individuals.” “Cold Harbour delivers a comprehensive array of customized solutions, encompassing risk management, crisis intervention, and operational, and protective services tailored to meet the unique needs of businesses, governments, non-profits, NGOs, and individuals. With a commitment to confidentiality, conflict resolution, and intelligence, our services provide robust protection for operations, assets, and personnel, enhancing organizational resilience and crisis recovery.” [Cold Harbour, accessed [04/24/24](#)]

- **Cold Harbour Also Claims To “Specialize In Scalable And Flexible Solutions, Adept At Serving Both Large-Scale Operations And Bespoke Projects With Efficiency.”** “We specialize in scalable and flexible solutions, adept at serving both large-scale operations and bespoke projects with efficiency.” [Cold Harbour, accessed [04/24/24](#)]

The Language And Formatting Of Cold Harbour’s Website Closely Resembles That Of Mission Safe Harbour’s Website.

Cold Harbour Touts Its “Exceptional Team, Comprised Of Individuals With Distinguished Backgrounds In Military, Intelligence, And Law Enforcement Special Operations Units,” While Mission Safe Harbour Touts Its “Team Of Exceptionally Proficient Individuals Hailing From Intelligence, Military, Special Operations, And Law Enforcement Units”:



[Cold Harbour, accessed [04/24/24](#)]

Our Team

Mission Safe Harbour comprises a team of exceptionally proficient individuals hailing from intelligence, military, special operations, and law enforcement units. Possessing extensive expertise in global operations and diverse backgrounds, our experts collaborate closely with law enforcement partners to tackle intricate challenges with remarkable efficacy. Leveraging their vast experience in counter-terrorism operations, our team skillfully repurposes their specialized abilities to combat the escalating instances of crimes related to child exploitation.



[Mission Safe Harbour, accessed [04/24/24](#)]

Cold Harbour And Mission Safe Harbour’s Contact Pages Both Say The Organizations Are From Northern Virginia, USA:



[Cold Harbour, accessed [04/24/24](#)]

Contact Us

Have a question or want to support the cause, contact us to learn more about our mission and work, or to become involved yourself.

Email: operations@missionsafeharbour.org

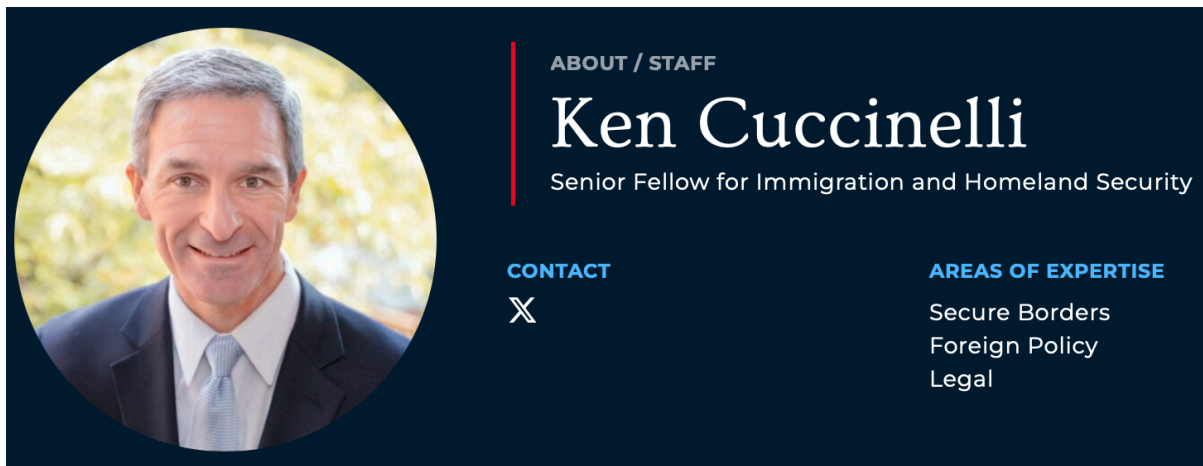
Northern Virginia, USA

[Mission Safe Harbour, accessed [04/24/24](#)]

Cuccinelli Is A Senior Fellow For Immigration And Homeland Security For The Center Of Renewing America (CRA) Whose President And Former Trump OMB Director Russ Vought Is Helping To Lead The Radical MAGA Project 2025 And Has Drawn Plans To Invoke The Insurrection Act “On Day One.”

Ken Cuccinelli Is Senior Fellow For Immigration And Homeland Security For The Center For Renewing America (CRA)—Which Has Sent Bullet Bottle Openers As Christmas Gifts And Has Drawn Plans To Invoke The Insurrection Act On The First Day Of The Next Conservative Administration “To Quash Protests.”

Ken Cuccinelli Is A Senior Fellow For Immigration And Homeland Security At The Center For Renewing America:



ABOUT / STAFF

Ken Cuccinelli

Senior Fellow for Immigration and Homeland Security

CONTACT

X

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- Secure Borders
- Foreign Policy
- Legal

[Center for Renewing America, accessed [04/24/24](#)]

Vought “Has Embraced The Idea That Christians Are Under Assault And Has Spoken Of Policies He Might Pursue In Response.” “As the country has become less religious and more diverse, Vought has embraced the idea that Christians are under assault and has spoken of policies he might pursue in response.” [Politico, [02/20/24](#)]

The Center For Renewing America’s (CRA’s) Top Priorities For A New Administration Explicitly Include “Christian Nationalism” And “Invoking The Insurrection Act On Day One To Quash Protests.” “One document drafted by CRA staff and fellows includes a list of top priorities for CRA in a second Trump term. ‘Christian nationalism’ is one of the bullet points. Others include invoking the Insurrection Act on Day One to quash protests and refusing to spend authorized congressional funds on unwanted projects, a practice banned by lawmakers in the Nixon era.” [Politico, [02/20/24](#)]

CRA President Russ Vought Has Promoted Immigration Restrictions That Would Weigh Whether Applicants Have “Accept[ed] Israel’s God, Laws And Understanding Of History.” “The documents obtained by POLITICO do not outline specific Christian nationalist policies. But Vought has promoted a restrictionist immigration agenda, saying a person’s background doesn’t define who can enter the U.S., but rather, citing Biblical teachings, whether that person ‘accept[ed] Israel’s God, laws and understanding of history.” [Politico, [02/20/24](#)]

In 2023, CRA’s Christmas Presents To Allies Were Bottle Openers Made From Large “Once-Fired” Bullets:

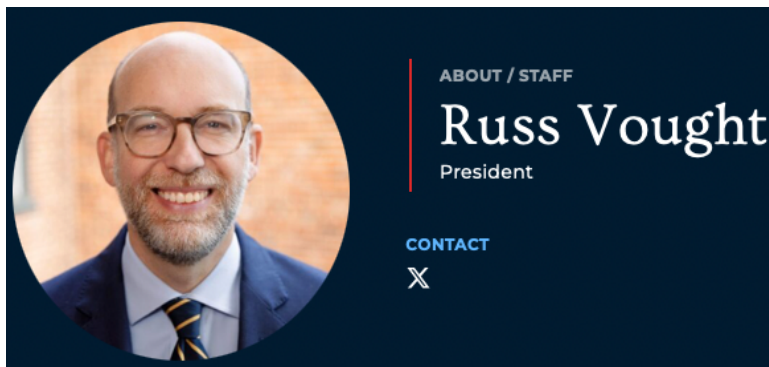


[Liked Post by @russvought, 12/18/23, accessed [03/18/24](#)]

- **Bottle Breacher Bottle Openers Are Made From “Once-Fired” Bullets.** “It’s difficult to capture the quality of our product in a picture, as each Bottle Breacher requires careful handling and a high attention to detail. While our bottle opener rounds are once-fired, we take pride in providing an extremely high-quality product. Our bottle openers are reloaded, cut for the opener, tumbled, hand-picked to have very minimal defects, prepped and cleaned for powder coating, powder coated to provide a smooth finish, laser engraved for that personal touch, repolished and inspected for quality control, and finally packaged and shipped to provide a high quality, one-of-a kind bottle opener.” [Bottle Breacher, accessed [03/19/24](#)]

CRA President Russ Vought “Spent Nearly Two Decades As A Right-Wing Bomb Thrower,” Working For Heritage Action, The Trump White House, Where He Was “One Of Trumps’ Most Trusted Officials,” And The Far-Right Republican Study Committee, Among Other Roles.

Vought Is The President Of The Center For Renewing America (CRA), Which Touts Vought’s “Key” Role In “Pushing For Conservative Victories” During The Trump Administration And Calls Vought “One Of Trump’s Most Trusted” Officials. “During the Trump Administration, OMB was a key office in pushing for conservative victories and helping President Trump cut through bureaucracy. During his four years at OMB, Russ was one of Trump’s most trusted and competent managers called by The Economist, the President’s Toolkit.” [Center for Renewing America, accessed [03/08/24](#)]



[Center for Renewing America, accessed [03/08/24](#)]

- **The Center For Renewing America Is Also Known As The Center For American Restoration:**

Center for Renewing America Inc. - Initial
File Number: C00006885132

[...]

Foreign Name

Center for American Restoration, Inc

[Search for Center for Renewing America Inc., Washington D.C. Department of Licensing and Consumer Protection, accessed [03/07/24](#)]

Washington Post Opinion Column: Vought “Has Spent Nearly Two Decades As A Right-Wing Bomb Thrower.” [Washington Post, Opinion, [12/31/20](#)]

August 2010 To January 2017: Vought Was Vice President At Heritage Action For America. According to his personal financial disclosure, Vought was vice president at Heritage Action for America from August 2010

to January 2017, when he became part of the “OMB Beachead Team.” [Office of Government Ethics, OGE Form 278e, Russell Vought, [3/24/17](#)]

- **Heritage Action For America Is Lobbying Arm Of Heritage Foundation.** “He previously worked at Heritage Action for America, the lobbying arm of the conservative Washington think tank.” [Wall Street Journal, [7/20/20](#)]
- **“The Group Fought GOP Leadership And Pushed Lawmakers Into Unyielding Positions.”** [Washington Post, [12/31/20](#)]

January 2017: Vought Joined Trump Administration As Part Of “OMB Beachead Team.” According to his personal financial disclosure, Vought was on the “OMB Beachead Team” from January 2017 to April 2017. [Office of Government Ethics, OGE Form 278e, Russell Vought, [3/24/17](#)]

- **April 2017: Vought Became “OMB Senior Advisor.”** According to his personal financial disclosure, Vought became “OMB senior advisor” in April 2017. [Office of Government Ethics, OGE Form 278e, Russell Vought, [3/24/17](#)]

“Mr. Vought Spent Twelve Years On Capitol Hill In Numerous Roles.” [White House Office of the Press Secretary via Wayback Machine, [4/7/17](#)]

Vought Was Executive Director Of The Republican Study Committee, Where He Said He Sought To Push Republican Leadership “As Far To The Right As Possible.” “He served as the Policy Director for the House Republican Conference, under then-Chairman Mike Pence, and as the Executive Director of the Republican Study Committee (RSC), under then-Chairman Jeb Hensarling.” [White House Office of the Press Secretary via Wayback Machine, [4/7/17](#)]

- **“[Vought] Previously Served As The RSC’s Budget Director.”** “[Vought] served as the Policy Director for the House Republican Conference, under then-Chairman Mike Pence, and as the Executive Director of the Republican Study Committee (RSC), under then-Chairman Jeb Hensarling. He previously served as the RSC’s Budget Director under two other chairmen.” [White House Office of the Press Secretary via Wayback Machine, [4/7/17](#)]
- **July 2011: Vought Wrote RSC’s Job Was “To Push [GOP] Leadership As Far To The Right As Possible.”** “The RSC is the conservative movement in the House of Representatives. It is not an arm of the elected House Leadership. It is not a cheerleader of everything that Leadership is doing. In fact, its job is to push Leadership as far to the right as is possible and flat out oppose it when necessary.” [RedState, “Message to RSc Members Get in or Get Out,” Russel Vought, [7/27/11](#)]

Vought “Served As The Policy Director For The House Republican Conference, Under Then-Chairman Mike Pence.” “He served as the Policy Director for the House Republican Conference, under then-Chairman Mike Pence, and as the Executive Director of the Republican Study Committee (RSC), under then-Chairman Jeb Hensarling.” [White House Office of the Press Secretary via Wayback Machine, [4/7/17](#)]

Vought “Began His Career Working For Senator Phil Gramm For Four Years As A Legislative Assistant.” “He began his career working for Senator Phil Gramm for four years as a legislative assistant.” [White House Office of the Press Secretary via Wayback Machine, [4/7/17](#)]

- **Gramm Was Republican Senator From Texas.** “Gramm was a senator from Texas and was a Republican. He served from 1985 to 2002.” [GovTrack, Sen, Phil Gramm, accessed [2/8/21](#)]

Vought Is Advising The Heritage Foundation’s Radical MAGA Project 2025, Whose Director Said Vought Is Leading “About A Thousand People Divided Into About 30 Teams” To Write An “Attack Plan” To Gut Key Executive Branch Agencies, Including The Justice, Education, Commerce, And Homeland Security Departments.

Vought Is Advising Project 2025, Which Has Stated, “Freedom Is Defined By God, Not Man.” “Vought, who declined to comment, is advising Project 2025, a governing agenda that would usher in one of the most conservative executive branches in modern American history. The effort is made up of a constellation of conservative groups run by Trump allies who’ve constructed a detailed plan to dismantle or overhaul key agencies in a second term. Among other principles, the project’s ‘Mandate for Leadership’ states that ‘freedom is defined by God, not man.’” [Politico, [02/20/24](#)]

Project 2025 Director Paul Dans “What We’re Writing Right Now Is Our Attack Plan” And “We Have About A Thousand People Divided Into About 30 Teams At Work And [...] That’s Directed By Russ Vought.” PAUL DANS: “Finally, what we’re writing right now is our attack plan. Our 180 day playbook. And that’s what you do when you get into the agency day one. So that’s rethinking a lot of these personnel laws that are in place where we’re, how we’re going to make changes, what programs are going to be shut down, what’s going to be emphasized, what executive order is going to be issued and when and the regulations authored or pulled down. So that work’s getting done right now, we have about a thousand people divided into about 30 teams at work and that continues apace. But that’s directed by Russ Vought, I think people may know Russ, through CRA, Center for Renewing America, one of our key coalition partners. So, what we’ve done here with project 2025 is a new paradigm. It’s a new way for our movement to not leave transition up to the candidate or the president-elect but to serve it up to him or her in really a turnkey fashion that will make it so easily digestible and ready to plug in that they’ll hit the ground running.” [YouTube, [12/22/23](#) (46:12)]

Project 2025, Led By The Conservative Heritage Foundation, Is A Radical MAGA Plan To “Roll Back Nothing Less Than 100 Years” Of “Liberal Encroachment” Through The Administrative State—The Plan Proposes To “Defund The Department Of Justice, Dismantle The FBI, Break Up The Department Of Homeland Security And Eliminate The Departments Of Education And Commerce.” “In truth, the program laid out by Dans and his fellow Trumpers, called Project 2025, is far more ambitious than anything Ronald Reagan dreamed up. Dans, from his seat inside The Heritage Foundation, and scores of conservative groups aligned with his program are seeking to roll back nothing less than 100 years of what they see as liberal encroachment on Washington. They want to overturn what began as Woodrow Wilson’s creation of a federal administrative elite and later grew into a vast, unaccountable and mostly liberal bureaucracy (as conservatives view it) under Franklin Roosevelt’s New Deal and Lyndon Johnson’s Great Society, numbering about two and a quarter million federal workers today. They aim to defund the Department of Justice, dismantle the FBI, break up the Department of Homeland Security and eliminate the Departments of Education and Commerce, to name just a few of their larger targets. [...] And they want to ensure that what remains of this slashed-down bureaucracy is reliably MAGA conservative — not just for the next president but for a long time to come — and that the White House maintains total control of it.” [Politico, [09/19/23](#)]

Vought Was A Longtime Vice President For The Heritage Foundation’s “Lobbying Arm” Heritage Action For America And His Confirmation To Lead Trump’s OMB Was Celebrated By Heritage’s President, Who Said “Russ Will Always Be Part Of The Heritage Family.”

August 2010 To January 2017: Vought Was Vice President At Heritage Action For America:

#	ORGANIZATION NAME	CITY, STATE	ORGANIZATION TYPE	POSITION HELD	FROM	TO
1	Heritage Action for America	Washington, District of Columbia	Non-Profit	Vice President	8/2010	1/2017

[Office of Government Ethics, OGE Form 278e, Russell Vought, [03/24/17](#)]

- **Heritage Action For America Is The Lobbying Arm Of The Heritage Foundation.** “He previously worked at Heritage Action for America, the lobbying arm of the conservative Washington think tank.” [Wall Street Journal, [7/20/20](#)]
- **Project 2025 Is Run By The Heritage Foundation.** “The Biden-Harris campaign plans to try to usurp ‘Project 2025’ — the name of a well-funded Heritage Foundation effort to prepare for a second Trump administration — to brand warnings about the former president’s policies.” [Axios, [03/06/24](#)]

July 2020: The Heritage Foundation Issued A Press Release Celebrating “Alumni” Russ Vought’s Confirmation As Director Of Trump’s Office Of Management And Budget. “The Senate has confirmed Russ Vought to serve as director of the Office of Management and Budget, making him the third Heritage alumni to join President Donald Trump’s Cabinet.” [The Heritage Foundation, [07/24/20](#)]

Confirmation of Russ Vought Makes Third Heritage Alumni in Trump Cabinet

[The Heritage Foundation, [07/24/20](#)]

Heritage Foundation President Kay C. James Said Vought Was “A Fearless Advocate For The American Taxpayer,” Claiming That “His Unwavering Fiscally Conservative Principles Make Him An Outstanding Choice To Head The Office Of Management And Budget.” “Russ has been a fearless advocate for the American taxpayer, and his unwavering fiscally conservative principles make him an outstanding choice to head the Office of Management and Budget,” said Heritage Foundation President Kay C. James. ‘Since joining OMB, Russ has been instrumental in producing budget proposals that advance priorities to make life better for all Americans.’ [The Heritage Foundation, [07/24/20](#)]

James Added, “Russ Will Always Be Part Of The Heritage Family,” While Claiming He “Pioneered New Forms Of Grassroots Activism And Inspired Tens Of Thousands Of The Conservative Movement’s Best And Brightest Activists.” “We are grateful to the president for promoting Russ and pleased that the Senate has confirmed him,’ James added. ‘Russ will always be part of the Heritage family. At Heritage Action, he pioneered new forms of grassroots activism and inspired tens of thousands of the conservative movement’s best and brightest activists to work for liberty and limited government. We are proud of him and look forward to his continuing leadership at OMB.’ [The Heritage Foundation, [07/24/20](#)]

Ken Cuccinelli Is The Credited Author For The Radical MAGA Project 2025’s Chapter On Breaking Up The Department Of Homeland Security—The Chapter’s Primary Recommendation Is “To Dismantle” The Department And Break It Apart Along “Mission Lines.”

Ken Cuccinelli Was Credited For Being The Author Of Project 2025's Chapter On Homeland Security, Although Cuccinelli Included A Note Claiming He "Wrote Only A Small Portion Of The Chapter" And That He Coordinated "The Efforts Of Experts."

Ken Cuccinelli Authored Project 2025's Chapter On The Department Of Homeland Security:

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Ken Cuccinelli

[Project 2025, accessed [04/24/24](#)]

Project 2025, Led By The Conservative Heritage Foundation, Is A Radical MAGA Plan To "Roll Back Nothing Less Than 100 Years" Of "Liberal Encroachment" Through The Administrative State—The Plan Proposes To "Defund The Department Of Justice, Dismantle The FBI, Break Up The Department Of Homeland Security And Eliminate The Departments Of Education And Commerce." "In truth, the program laid out by Dans and his fellow Trumpers, called Project 2025, is far more ambitious than anything Ronald Reagan dreamed up. Dans, from his seat inside The Heritage Foundation, and scores of conservative groups aligned with his program are seeking to roll back nothing less than 100 years of what they see as liberal encroachment on Washington. They want to overturn what began as Woodrow Wilson's creation of a federal administrative elite and later grew into a vast, unaccountable and mostly liberal bureaucracy (as conservatives view it) under Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal and Lyndon Johnson's Great Society, numbering about two and a quarter million federal workers today. They aim to defund the Department of Justice, dismantle the FBI, break up the Department of Homeland Security and eliminate the Departments of Education and Commerce, to name just a few of their larger targets. [...] And they want to ensure that what remains of this slashed-down bureaucracy is reliably MAGA conservative — not just for the next president but for a long time to come — and that the White House maintains total control of it." [Politico, [09/19/23](#)]

In An Author's Note At The End Of The Chapter, Cuccinelli Claimed To Have Only Written A Small Portion Of The DHS Chapter For Project 2025. "AUTHOR'S NOTE: I had the honor of coordinating the efforts of the experts listed as contributors to this book, nearly all of whom have spent more time inside or interacting with the Department of Homeland Security than myself. I wrote only a small portion of the chapter and relied on the contributors' experience and expertise to give the chapter both its depth and policy impact. No views expressed herein should be attributed to any single contributor." [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 167, [2023](#)]

- **Cuccinelli Wrote "No Views Expressed Herein Should Be Attributed To Any Single Contributor."** [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 167, [2023](#)]

The "Primary Recommendation" Of Cuccinelli's Chapter Is "To Dismantle The Department Of Homeland Security [DHS], Breaking Up The Department "Along Its Mission Lines."

Cuccinelli's Chapter Proposed Dismantling The Department Of Homeland Security (DHS), Stating "Our Primary Recommendation Is That The President Pursue Legislation To Dismantle The Department Of Homeland Security" And To Break Up The Department "Along Its Mission Lines." "Our primary

recommendation is that the President pursue legislation to dismantle the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). After 20 years, it has not gelled into ‘One DHS.’ Instead, its various components’ different missions have outweighed its decades-long attempt to function as one department, rendering the whole disjointed rather than cohesive. Breaking up the department along its mission lines would facilitate mission focus and provide opportunities to reduce overhead and achieve more limited government.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 133, [2023](#)]

Cuccinelli’s Chapter Proposes Combining Customs And Border Protection, Immigration And Customs Enforcement, Citizen And Immigration Services, And Offices From DOH And HHS Into One New Department

Project 2025 proposed creating a large, cabinet-level agency focused on immigration by combining Customs and Border Protection, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Citizen and Immigration Services, and offices from HHS and DOJ. “In lieu of a status quo DHS, we recommend that: U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) be combined with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE); U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS); the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR); and the Department of Justice (DOJ) Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) and Office of Immigration Litigation (OIL) into a standalone border and immigration agency at the Cabinet level (more than 100,000 employees, making it the third largest department measured by manpower).” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 133, [2023](#)]

The Chapter Proposes Moving Several Functions From DHS To The U.S. Department Of Justice Or The Defense Department, Including Moving The Coast Guard And Splitting The Secret Service Into Two.

Project 2025 Proposed Moving The U.S. Coast Guard To The DOJ, Or Alternatively To The DOD. “The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) be moved to DOJ and, in time of full-scale war (i.e., threatening the homeland), to the Department of Defense (DOD). Alternatively, USCG should be moved to DOD for all purposes.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 134, [2023](#)]

Project 2025 Proposed Splitting The Secret Service In Two, Shifting The Protective Element To The DOJ And Financial Enforcement To The Treasury Department. “The U.S. Secret Service (USSS) be divided in two, with the protective element moved to DOJ and the financial enforcement element moved to the Department of the Treasury.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 133, [2023](#)]

Project 2025 Proposed Moving The Office Of Countering Weapons Of Mass Destruction To The FBI. “The Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) be moved to DOD and the Office of Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction be moved to the FBI.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 134, [2023](#)]

The Chapter Proposes Moving FEMA And Other Functions To The Department Of Transportation Or Interior And Privatizing The Transportation Security Administration (TSA).

Project 2025 Proposed Moving The Cybersecurity And Infrastructure Security Agency To The Department Of Transportation. “In lieu of a status quo DHS, we recommend that: [...] The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) be moved to the Department of Transportation.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 133, [2023](#)]

Project 2025 Proposed Moving FEMA To The Department Of The Interior Or Department Of Transportation. “The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) be moved to the Department of the

Interior or, if combined with CISA, to the Department of Transportation.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 134, [2023](#)]

Project 2025 Proposed Privatizing TSA. “The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) be privatized.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 134, [2023](#)]

The Chapter Proposes Eliminating Other DHS Components Altogether, Including Law Enforcement Training Centers, The Office Of Intelligence And Analysis, And The Office For Civil Rights And Civil Liberties.

Project 2025 Proposed Eliminating A Number Of DHS Components, Claiming Their Functions Exist Elsewhere In The Government. “All of the remaining supporting components could be dismantled because their functions already exist in the moving components as well as the receiving departments. Cutting these costs would save the American taxpayers significant sums.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 134, [2023](#)]

Project 2025 Proposed Eliminating The Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers; The Office Of Intelligence And Analysis; The Office Of Strategy Policy, And Plans; The Office For State And Local Law Enforcement; The Office Of Homeland Security Situational Awareness; The Privacy Office; The Office Of The Immigration Detention Ombudsman; The Office For Civil Rights And Civil Liberties; And The Office Of Health Security. [Department of Homeland Security, Organizational Chart, [11/9/23](#)]

Cuccinelli’s Chapter Argued That DHS Wasn’t Sufficiently Focused And Suffered From “The Left’s Wokeness” And “Weaponization Against Americans,” Accusing The Biden Administration Of Turning Parts Of DHS Into An “Open-Borders Agency.”

The Chapter Asserted That DHS “Needs Many Reforms” And Proposed A Narrow Mission For The Department.

Project 2025 Said That If DHS Isn’t To Be Abolished, It “Needs Many Reforms.” “Unless and until this dismantling recommendation is pursued and achieved, however, DHS will statutorily continue to exist, and it needs many reforms. Accordingly, we now turn to recommended changes in DHS as it exists now.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 134, [2023](#)]

The Chapter Proposes A Simplified Mission Statement For DHS And Called On The Dept. To Prioritize “Border Security And Immigration Enforcement, Including Detention And Deportation.”

Project 2025 Proposed A New, More Specific Mission Statement For DHS. “MISSION STATEMENT The Department of Homeland Security protects the American homeland from and prepares for terrorism and other hazards in both the physical and cyber realms, provides for secure and free movement of trade and travel, and enforces U.S. immigration laws impartially.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 134, [2023](#)]

2016: DHS Announced A Mission Statement: “With Honor And Integrity, We Will Safeguard The American People, Our Homeland And Our Values.” “I am pleased and proud to release to the public today our new mission statement for the Department of Homeland Security: With honor and integrity, we will safeguard the American people, our homeland, and our values.’ This statement is intended to reflect the views and the values of our employees, and to be in their voice, not mine. Almost 3,000 of our people answered my

call for ideas for our mission statement, and we received many thoughtful answers. Across all components, the three words most often invoked in the submissions were ‘honor,’ ‘integrity,’ and ‘safeguard.’ These words are contained in the statement. The word ‘values’ was included to reference, among other things, our missions to preserve and promote this Nation’s immigrant heritage and humanitarian spirit, as well as the freedoms and civil liberties we must balance and preserve in the pursuit of our security mission. We wanted to limit the statement to one sentence. In the development of this statement, I was pleased to consult all three former Secretaries of Homeland Security.” [Department of Homeland Security press release, [5/11/16](#)]

Project 2025 Called For DHS To Prioritize “Border Security And Immigration Enforcement, Including Detention And Deportation.” “Prioritizing border security and immigration enforcement, including detention and deportation, is critical if we are to regain control of the border, repair the historic damage done by the Biden Administration, return to a lawful and orderly immigration system, and protect the homeland from terrorism and public safety threats. This also includes consolidating the pieces of the fragmented immigration system into one agency to fulfill the mission more efficiently.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 135, [2023](#)]

The Chapter Said DHS Was “Bloated, Bureaucratic, And Expensive.”

Project 2025 Called DHS “Bloated, Bureaucratic, And Expensive.” “Unfortunately for our nation, the federal government’s newest department became like every other federal agency: bloated, bureaucratic, and expensive. It also lost sight of its mission priorities. DHS has also suffered from the Left’s wokeness and weaponization against Americans whom the Left perceives as its political opponents.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 135, [2023](#)]

Project 2025 Claimed That DHS Has “Suffered From The Left’s Wokeness And Weaponization Against Americans.”

Project 2025 Claimed That DHS Has “Suffered From The Left’s Wokeness And Weaponization Against Americans Whom The Left Perceives As Its Political Opponents.” “Unfortunately for our nation, the federal government’s newest department became like every other federal agency: bloated, bureaucratic, and expensive. It also lost sight of its mission priorities. DHS has also suffered from the Left’s wokeness and weaponization against Americans whom the Left perceives as its political opponents.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 135, [2023](#)]

- **Project 2025 Said That The Next Conservative Administration Needs To Right-Size DHS, Focused On The “Right Mission” With The “Right Budget.”** “To truly secure the homeland, a conservative Administration needs to return the department to the right mission, the right size, and the right budget. This would include reorganizing the department and shifting significant resources away from several supporting components to the essential operational components.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 135, [2023](#)]

Project 2025 Complained That The “Left Has Weaponized” DHS To “Censor Speech And Affect Elections,” Citing The Twitter Files.

Project 2025 Claimed That “The Left Has Weaponized” The Cybersecurity And Infrastructure Security Agency “To Censor Speech And Affect Elections.” The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) is a DHS component that the Left has weaponized to censor speech and affect elections at the expense of securing the cyber domain and critical infrastructure, which are threatened daily. A conservative Administration should return CISA to its statutory and important but narrow mission.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 135, [2023](#)]

- **Project 2025 Cited A Substack Newsletter Titled “Elon Musk Slams CISA Censorship Network As ‘propaganda Platform’” To Support Its Claim That The Left “Weaponized” CISA.** “2. See, for example, “Elon Musk Slams CISA Censorship Network as ‘Propaganda Platform,’” Kanekoa News, December 28, 2022, <https://kanekoa.substack.com/p/elon-musk-slams-cisa-censorship-network> (accessed March 14, 2023).” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 168, [2023](#)]

Project 2025 Called For Eliminating The Office Of Intelligence And Analysis, Saying It’s Duplicative And Has Been “Weaponized For Domestic Political Purposes.”

“The Office of Intelligence and Analysis should be eliminated both because it has not added value and because it has been weaponized for domestic political purposes. The Intelligence Community (IC) already provides raw intelligence to DHS components. In addition, the FBI, National Counter Terrorism Center, and other agencies where necessary already provide holistic threat assessment products to federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial governments as well as to private-sector entities at both the classified and unclassified levels where appropriate. I&A’s work as an interlocuter between the IC and DHS components’ individual intelligence operations on the one hand and government and the private sector on the other, as well as between the IC and the components, is at best duplicative. At worst, it is used and discussed in the media as a political tool, resulting in more harm than good to the U.S. government and IC writ large.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 161 [2023](#)]

- **The Office Of Intelligence & Analysis Is The Only Member Of The Intelligence Community Charged With Providing Intelligence To State, Local, And Private Sector Partners.** “The Office of Intelligence & Analysis (I&A) is a unique member of the U.S. Intelligence Community (IC). I&A is the only IC element statutorily charged with delivering intelligence to our State, Local, Tribal and Territorial (SLTT) and private sector partners, and developing intelligence from those partners for the Department and the IC.” [DHS, [10/23/23](#)]

Project 2025 Accused The Biden Administration Of Turning Parts Of DHS Into An “Open-Borders Agency.”

Project 2025 Accused The Biden Administration Of Turning USCIS Into An “Open-Borders Agency” That Ignores National Security And Public Safety. “Since January 2021, USCIS’s priorities have been misaligned, and this has transformed it into an open-borders agency, ignoring the critical role that it plays in national security, public safety, and safeguarding the integrity of our immigration system.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 143 [2023](#)]

Project 2025 Cited The “Summer 2020 Civil Unrest” As A Reason For Shifting Lines Of Report Within DHS.

Project 2025 Cited The “Summer 2020 Civil Unrest” As The Reason For The Federal Protective Service To Report Directly To The Dhs Secretary. Federal Protective Service (FPS). FPS needs federal agents to develop, share, and receive operational information and maintain direct contact with the Secretary in the midst of heightened threats. Before the summer 2020 civil unrest, positioning FPS under MGMT was justified, but given the current climate, they should not be reporting through MGMT. This may be especially problematic if a Management Directorate Under Secretary lacking law enforcement or military experience is in place when a situation like summer 2020 arises. FPS should report to the Secretary as other components (e.g., FLETC) do. This would add little to the Secretary’s current burden unless or until civil unrest arises, at which point reporting to the Secretary creates a direct line between the primary DHS decision-maker (S1 or S2) and the FPS Director.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 160 [2023](#)]

Although Cuccinelli’s Chapter Accused DHS Of Being “Politically Charged,” It Proposed Expanding The Number Of Political Appointees While Calling For Cutting Congressional Oversight Of DHS And Strengthening Political Decisionmaking Processes At The Department.

Project 2025 Asserted That DHS Is “Politically Charged.”

Project 2025 Wrote “DHS’s Mission Is Politically Charged.” “DHS’s mission is politically charged, and the legal function cannot be allowed to thwart the Administration’s agenda by providing stilted or erroneous legal positions and decision-making.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 162 [2023](#)]

Project 2025 Proposed Dramatically Expanding The Number Of Political Appointees At DHS.

Project 2025 Proposed Expanding The Number Of Political Appointees At DHS. “Expansion of Dedicated Political Personnel. The Secretary of Homeland Security is a presidentially appointed and Senate-confirmed political appointee, but for budgetary reasons, he or she has historically been unable to fund a dedicated team of political appointees. A key first step for the Secretary to improve front-office functions is to have his or her own dedicated team of political appointees selected and vetted by the Office of Presidential Personnel, which is not reliant on detailees from other parts of the department, to help ensure the completion of the next President’s agenda.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 136, [2023](#)]

Project 2025 Called For The DHS Office Of General Counsel To “Hire Significantly More [...] Political Appointees.” “OGC should hire significantly more Schedule C/political appointees who in turn supervise career staff and manage their output. DHS’s mission is politically charged, and the legal function cannot be allowed to thwart the Administration’s agenda by providing stilted or erroneous legal positions and decision-making.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 162 [2023](#)]

Project 2025 Proposed Reducing The Number Of Senate-Confirmable Positions At DHS, But Not Necessarily The Total Number Of Political Appointees At The Department.

Project 2025 Called For Reducing The Number Of Senate-Confirmable Positions At DHS, Acknowledging That May Be A Moot Point If The Department Is Downsized. “The department should also look to remove lower-level but nevertheless important positions that currently require Senate confirmation from the confirmation requirement, although this effort would require legislation (and might also be mooted in the event of legislation that closes portions of the department that currently have Senate-confirmed leadership).” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 136, [2023](#)]

Project 2025 Called For Reducing The Number Of Senate-Confirmable Political Appointees, But Not Reducing The Number Of Political Appointees. “FEMA currently has four Senate-confirmed positions. Only the Administrator should be confirmed by the Senate; other political leadership need not be confirmed by the Senate. Additionally, FEMA’s ‘springing Cabinet position’ should be eliminated, as this creates significant unnecessary challenges to the functioning of the whole of DHS at points in time when coordinated responses are most needed.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 154 [2023](#)]

Project 2025 Said The Next Conservative President Should Place Nominees For DHS Appointments Into Related “Acting” Roles In An “Aggressive Approach To Senate-Confirmed Leadership Positions.”

Project 2025 Called For The Next Conservative Administration To Place Nominees For Senate-Confirmed Positions Into Acting Roles In Similar Dhs Positions To Provide For A Rapid Transition. “An Aggressive Approach to Senate-Confirmed Leadership Positions. While Senate confirmation is a constitutionally necessary requirement for appointing agency leadership, the next Administration may need to take a novel approach to the confirmations process to ensure an adequate and rapid transition. For example, the next Administration arguably should place its nominees for key positions into similar positions as ‘actings’ (for example, putting in a person to serve as the Senior Official Performing the Duties of the Commissioner of CBP while that person is going through the confirmation process to direct ICE or become the Secretary). This approach would both guarantee implementation of the Day One agenda and equip the department for potential emergency situations while still honoring the confirmation requirement.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 136, [2023](#)]

Project 2025 Proposed Prohibiting DHS Staff Other Than Political Appointees From Communicating With Congressional Staff “On All Inquiries.”

Project 2025 Proposed Merging The DHS Office Of Legislative Affairs, The Office Of Public Affairs, And The Office Of Partnership And Engagement. “OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS (OLA); OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS (OPA); AND OFFICE OF PARTNERSHIP AND ENGAGEMENT (OPE) DHS’s external communications function should be consolidated and reformed so that the President’s agenda can be implemented more effectively. The Office of Partnership and Engagement should be merged into the Office of Public Affairs. In many Cabinet agencies, outreach to companies and partner organizations is similarly performed by the Office of Public Affairs. This would also accomplish a needed DHS organizational and management reform to decrease the number of direct reports to the Secretary.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 163 [2023](#)]

Project 2025 Asserted That “Only Political Appointees” In The Office Of Legislative Affairs Should “Interact Directly With Congressional Staff On All Inquiries.” “Only political appointees in OLA should interact directly with congressional staff on all inquiries, including budget and appropriations matters. To prevent congressional staff from answer shopping among HQ OLA, the DHS OCFO, and components, DHS legislative affairs appropriations staff should be moved from MGMT OCFO into OLA. Regarding components, budget/appropriations staff should move from component budget offices into component legislative affairs offices.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 163 [2023](#)]

Project 2025 Proposed DHS Restricting Communications With Congressional Committees.

Project 2025 Called On The Next Conservative President To Agree With Congressional Leadership To “Limit Committee Jurisdiction [Over DHS] To One Authorizing Committee And One Appropriations Committee In Each Chamber. “Because dozens of congressional committees and subcommittees either have or claim to have jurisdiction over some DHS function, DHS staff from the Secretary on down spend so much time responding to congressional hearing and briefing requests, letters, and questions for the record that they are left with little time to do their assigned job of protecting the homeland. The next President should reach an agreement with congressional leadership to limit committee jurisdiction to one authorizing committee and one appropriations committee in each chamber. If congressional leadership will not limit their committees’ jurisdiction over DHS, DHS should identify one authorizing and appropriations committee in each chamber and answer only to it.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 163 [2023](#)]

- **Project 2025 Proposed Dhs Should Only Respond To One Authorizing And One Appropriations Committee In Each Chamber In The Event That Congressional Leadership Doesn't Agree To That With The President.** “The next President should reach an agreement with congressional leadership to limit committee jurisdiction to one authorizing committee and one appropriations committee in each chamber. If congressional leadership will not limit their committees’ jurisdiction over DHS, DHS should identify one authorizing and appropriations committee in each chamber and answer only to it.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 163 [2023](#)]

Project 2025 Proposed DHS Staff Stop Reporting To Congress On Certain Matters.

Project 2025 Called On Dhs Office Of Legislative Affairs Staff To Identify “Needless Congressional Reporting Requirements And Notify Congress That Dhs Will Cease Reporting On Such Matters.”

“To focus more precisely on the DHS mission, OLA staff should also identify outdated and needless congressional reporting requirements and notify Congress that DHS will cease reporting on such matters. For other congressional reports, OLA should implement a sunset date so that Congress must regularly demonstrate the need for specific data.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 163-164 [2023](#)]

Project 2025 Said That Staff In The DHS Office Of Public Affairs And The Office Of Legislative Affairs Should Serve “As Messengers And Advocates For The President And The Secretary.”

“In both OPA and OLA, a change in mission and culture is needed. The clients of both components are the President and the Secretary, not the media, external organizations, or Congress. OPA and OLA should change from being compliance correspondents for outside entities airing grievances to serving as messengers and advocates for the President and the Secretary.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 164 [2023](#)]

Project 2025 Demanded That The Next Conservative DHS Comply With Congressional Inquiries, Accusing The Biden Administration Of Obstruction.

Project 2025 Called On The Next Conservative DHS Secretary To Comply With Congressional Inquiries And “Provide The Transparency That Has Been Obstructed During The Biden Administration.

“Restoration of Honesty and Transparency. The Secretary should use his or her inherent authority as leader of the department to follow up with congressional and other partners to disclose information and provide the transparency that has been obstructed during the Biden Administration. The Secretary should proceed from the assumption that congressional inquiries and public information requests were unfulfilled and then seek to fulfill them.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 138, [2023](#)]

Project 2025 Called For The Wholesale Replacement Of The Entire Homeland Security Advisory Committee As Soon As Possible.

“Replacement of the Entire Homeland Security Advisory Committee. The Secretary should plan to quickly remove all current members of the Homeland Security Advisory Committee and replace them as quickly as is feasible.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 138, [2023](#)]

Project 2025 Proposed A “Political-Only Line Of Succession” To Prevent Career Staff From Being Able To Make Decision During Times Of Appointee Vacancies.

Project 2025 Called For A “Political-Only Line Of Succession” At DHS To Prevent Career Employees Assuming Acting Authority In The Event Of A Vacant Position. “Clearer, More Durable, and Political-Only Line of Succession. Based on previous experience, the department needs legislation to establish a more durable but politically oriented line of succession for agency decision-making purposes. The ideal sequence for line of succession is certainly debatable, except that in circumstances where a career employee holds a

leadership position in the department, that position should be deemed vacant for line-of-succession purposes and the next eligible political appointee in the sequence should assume acting authority.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 136, [2023](#)]

Project 2025 Proposed Shifting Career Employees To New, Different Positions Throughout The Department To “Strengthen Political Decision-Making.”

Project 2025 Called For Strengthening “Political Decision-Making” By Shifting Career Employees Around. “Restructuring and Redistribution of Career Personnel. To strengthen political decision-making and ensure that taxpayer dollars are being used legally and efficiently, the Secretary should make major changes in the distribution of career personnel throughout the department. For example, personnel from parts of the department undergoing soft closure could be redistributed to what will be workload-intensive corners of the department, including national security–critical and transparency functions.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 137, [2023](#)]

Project 2025 Proposed Allowing An Acting Secretary To Finalize Decisions And Regulations.

Project 2025 Proposed Giving An Acting Secretary Of DHS Authority To Finalize Decisions And Regulations. “Further, individuals wielding acting Secretary authority should have explicit authority to finalize agency actions, including regulations, to ensure that the department’s homeland security mission is fulfilled.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 136-137, [2023](#)]

Cuccinelli’s Chapter Called For Abolishing Employee Labor Unions At DHS By Designating The Department Part Of The Intelligence Community And Weakening The Role Of Career Officials.

Project 2025 Proposed Abolishing Employee Labor Unions At Dhs For “National Security Reasons.”

Project 2025 Proposed That The Front Office “Be Prepared To Help Implement Any End To Unionization Of DHS Components In Response To An Executive Order.” “Over the first few months of the Administration, the advisers’ role should be to assess what structural and procedural changes are appropriate. They should dissect the current standing Management Directives and the approval processes in place to implement and/or change them; Office of the Chief Human Capital Officer’s processes and procedures; hurdles to the Office of Chief Procurement Officer’s procurement of innovative technology; and the facilities plan, including the consolidation into the St. Elizabeth’s campus. They should also be prepared to help implement any end to unionization of DHS components in response to an executive order pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 7103.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 159-160 [2023](#)]

- **5 U.S.C. 7103 Authorizes The President, By Executive Order, To Exclude An Agency From Having Labor Organizations, By Designating The Agency An Intelligence, Counterintelligence, Investigative, Or National Security Agency.** [5 U.S.C. 7103, accessed [4/9/24](#)]

Project 2025 Proposed “Removing All Unions” In DHS “For National Security Purposes.” “These opportunities include privatizing TSA screening and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) National Flood Insurance Program, reforming FEMA emergency spending to shift the majority of preparedness and response costs to states and localities instead of the federal government, eliminating most of DHS’s grant programs, and removing all unions in the department for national security purposes.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 135, [2023](#)]

Project 2025 Proposed Eliminating Labor Unions Within USCIS As A Matter Of National Security.

“USCIS should be classified as a national security–sensitive agency, and all of its employees should be classified as holding national security–sensitive positions. Leaks must be investigated and punished as they would be in a national security agency, and the union should be decertified. Any employees who cannot accept that change and cannot conform their behavior to the standards required by such an agency should be separated.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 147 [2023](#)]

Project 2025 Called For Immediate Elimination Of Employee Labor Unions In The TSA, “Until It Is Privatized.” “Until it is privatized, TSA should be treated as a national security provider, and its workforce should be deunionized immediately.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 158-159 [2023](#)]

Project 2025 Proposed Firing Employees Who Opposed The Effort To Abolish Unions.

Project 2025 Proposed Firing Any Employee Opposed To Union Decertification At USCIS. “USCIS should be classified as a national security–sensitive agency, and all of its employees should be classified as holding national security–sensitive positions. Leaks must be investigated and punished as they would be in a national security agency, and the union should be decertified. Any employees who cannot accept that change and cannot conform their behavior to the standards required by such an agency should be separated.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 147 [2023](#)]

- **Project 2025 Proposed Classifying Uscis As A “National Security-Sensitive Agency,” Requiring Leaks To Be “Investigated And Punished As They Would Be In A National Security Agency.”** “USCIS should be classified as a national security–sensitive agency, and all of its employees should be classified as holding national security–sensitive positions. Leaks must be investigated and punished as they would be in a national security agency, and the union should be decertified. Any employees who cannot accept that change and cannot conform their behavior to the standards required by such an agency should be separated.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 147 [2023](#)]

Cuccinelli’s Chapter Proposed Reforming The DHS Office Of General Counsel To Make It More Political And Adherent To The President’s Agenda And Subjecting The Office Of Civil Rights And Civil Liberties To A Political Oversight.

Project 2025 Asserted That The DHS OGC Should Advise DHS Leaders On How To “Execute Its Mission Within The Law Instead Of Advising Principals As To Why They Cannot Execute Regulations, Policies, And Programs.”

Project 2025: The Office Of General Counsel (OGC) “Should Advise Principals As To How DHS Can Execute Its Missions Within The Law Instead Of Advising Principals As To Why They Cannot Execute Regulations, Policies, And Programs.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 162 [2023](#)]

Project 2025 Called For OGC To “Hire Significantly More” Political Appointees Because Career Employees Can “Thwart The Administration’s Agenda” Through “Stilted Or Erroneous Legal Positions.”

Project 2025 Called For The DHS Office Of General Counsel To “Hire Significantly More [...] Political Appointees.” “OGC should hire significantly more Schedule C/political appointees who in turn supervise career staff and manage their output. DHS’s mission is politically charged, and the legal function cannot be allowed to thwart the Administration’s agenda by providing stilted or erroneous legal positions and decision-making.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 162 [2023](#)]

- **Project 2025 Wrote “DHS’s Mission Is Politically Charged.”** “DHS’s mission is politically charged, and the legal function cannot be allowed to thwart the Administration’s agenda by providing stilted or erroneous legal positions and decision-making.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 162 [2023](#)]

Project 2025 Suggested That Career Employees In The DHS Office Of General Counsel Provide “Stilted Or Erroneous Legal Positions” To “Thwart The Administration’s Agenda.” “DHS’s mission is politically charged, and the legal function cannot be allowed to thwart the Administration’s agenda by providing stilted or erroneous legal positions and decision-making.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 162 [2023](#)]

Project 2025 Proposed Moving The Office For Civil Rights And Civil Liberties And The Privacy Office Into The OGC And Make Them Subject To Management By A Political Appointee.

Project 2025 Proposed That The DHS Office Of General Counsel Should “Absorb” The Necessary Functions Of The Office For Civil Rights And Civil Liberties And The Privacy Office, Making Them Directly Subject To Political Appointee Management. “OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS AND CIVIL LIBERTIES (CRCL) AND PRIVACY OFFICE (PRIV) The Homeland Security Act established only an Officer of CRCL, not an office. The only substantive function Congress then assigned to the officer was to review and assess information alleging abuses of civil rights. Since then, Congress and CRCL itself have significantly expanded CRCL’s scope and size well beyond its original intent or helpful purpose. CRCL now operates and views itself as a quasiDHS Office of Inspector General. This results in a considerable waste of limited component resources, which are routinely tasked to address redundant, overly burdensome, and uninformed demands from CRCL. It is therefore important to recalibrate CRCL’s scope and reach. The organizational structure of both CRCL and the Privacy Office should be changed to ensure proper alignment with the department’s mission. The Office of General Counsel should absorb both CRCL’s and PRIV’s necessary functions and staff. Although the CRCL Officer and the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Officer/Privacy Officer are statutory, their offices are not mandatory. CRCL and PRIV Officers and employees should report to a Deputy General Counsel, who would be a political appointee.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 164-165 [2023](#)]

Project 2025 Said That Only A Politically Appointed Deputy General Counsel Should Interface With “Any Federal, State, Local, Or Nongovernmental Groups” Instead Of A Staffer From The Office Of Civil Rights And Civil Liberties Or The Privacy Office.

Project 2025 Proposed Prohibiting Communication Between Either The Office Of Civil Rights And Civil Liberties Or The Privacy Office And “Any Federal, State, Local, Or Nongovernment Groups,” Limiting Those Communications To A Single, Politically Appointed Deputy General Counsel. “A consistent, clear, and singular message is necessary for DHS’s mission. Therefore, all communications and/or meetings with any federal, state, local, or nongovernment groups should be limited to the Deputy General Counsel.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 165 [2023](#)]

Project 2025 Proposed Abolishing More Than 50 Working Groups That The Office For Civil Rights And Civil Liberties And The Privacy Office Participate In.

Project 2025 Proposed Abolishing More Than 50 Working Groups That The Office For Civil Rights And Civil Liberties (CRCL) And The Privacy Office (PRIV) Participate In. “In addition, given the narrower scope of work, OGC should disband the outside advisory boards and the more than 50 working groups in which CRCL and PRIV currently participate. Finally, CRCL and PRIV should no longer issue bulletins or periodicals.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 165 [2023](#)]

Cuccinelli’s Chapter Calls For Draconian Immigration Policies Under A New Immigration-Focused Department, Restoring Trump-Era Restrictions While Undoing Biden Administration Reforms.

Project 2025 Proposed A New Immigration-Focused Department That Could Take One Of Several Forms.

Project 2025 Proposed Merging USCIS, ICE, CBP And The Office Of Refugee Resettlement In HHS. “To advance the national interest, the three core immigration agencies—USCIS, ICE, and CBP—should remerge and have immigration elements outside of DHS (such as ORR of HHS) included. The fragmented immigration enforcement framework that developed in the wake of the Homeland Security Act has weakened each agency and should be remediated. Combining these critical agencies would strengthen their capabilities, ensure cooperation, and promote information-sharing. Agency responsibilities and the delineation of authorities, such as inconsistent use of deferred action and issuance of NTAs by each agency, have long been a point of contention that would be addressed much more easily if they were recombined into a single entity.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 144, [2023](#)]

- **Project 2025 Proposed Moving The HHS Office Of Refugee Resettlement To DHS Or Require The HHS Secretary To “Ensure That ORR Is Fully Pursuing Presidential Objectives In Support Of DHS.”** “Department of Health and Human Services: Agree to move the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) to DHS or, alternatively, implement an aggressive and regular effort by the Secretary of HHS to ensure that ORR is fully pursuing presidential objectives in support of DHS.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 166, [2023](#)]

Project 2025 Proposed Moving The Executive Office For Immigration Review And The Office Of Immigration Litigation From The Justice Department To DHS. “Department of Justice: Agree to move the Executive Office for Immigration Review and the Office of Immigration Litigation to DHS and/or, alternatively, to treat the administrative law judges (immigration judges and Board of Immigration Appeals) as national security personnel, decertify their union, and move to increase hiring significantly to enable the processing of more immigration cases.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 167, [2023](#)]

- **Project 2025 Proposed Treating Administrative Law Immigration Judges And The Board Of Immigration Appeals “As National Security Personnel, Decertify Their Union,” And Significantly Increase Hiring To Process More Immigration Cases.** “Department of Justice: Agree to move the Executive Office for Immigration Review and the Office of Immigration Litigation to DHS and/or, alternatively, to treat the administrative law judges (immigration judges and Board of Immigration Appeals) as national security personnel, decertify their union, and move to increase hiring significantly to enable the processing of more immigration cases.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 167, [2023](#)]

Project 2025 Proposed Merging Customs And Border Protection With Immigration And Customs Enforcement To Create A New Border Security And Immigration Agency. “If all immigration agencies are

not merged, including USCIS and ORR, then an appropriate third alternative would be to consolidate ICE and CBP to form a combined Border Security and Immigration Agency (BSIA). This would integrate critical interdiction, enforcement, and investigative resources, enhancing coordination and refocusing collective efforts on the vast and complex cross-border threats impacting our nation's health, safety, and national security. It would also simultaneously add efficiencies to our nation's capacity to facilitate lawful trade and travel." [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 138-139, [2023](#)]

- **Project 2025 Called For Making The New BSIA Part Of The National Security And Intelligence Community.** "In addition, appropriate elements within the newly created BSIA should be designated as part of the U.S. National Security and Intelligence Community." [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 139, [2023](#)]

Project 2025 Proposed Merging Customs And Border Protection With Immigration And Customs Enforcement To Create A New Border Security And Immigration Agency. "If all immigration agencies are not merged, including USCIS and ORR, then an appropriate third alternative would be to consolidate ICE and CBP to form a combined Border Security and Immigration Agency (BSIA). This would integrate critical interdiction, enforcement, and investigative resources, enhancing coordination and refocusing collective efforts on the vast and complex cross-border threats impacting our nation's health, safety, and national security. It would also simultaneously add efficiencies to our nation's capacity to facilitate lawful trade and travel." [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 138-139, [2023](#)]

Project 2025 Proposed Undoing Biden Administration Immigration Policies And Restoring Trump-Era Policies.

Project 2025 called for rescinding all USCIS Regulations, Policies, Memoranda, And Management Directives Issued During The Biden Administration. "During a transition period, a complete audit of agency policies, memoranda, and management directives issued during the Biden Administration should be completed, and rescission documents should be prepared for issuance within the first few days of the incoming Administration. Additionally, regulatory documents should be drafted to review or reverse all regulations promulgated during the Biden Administration." [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 144 [2023](#)]

Project 2025 Referred To "Unlawful Programs" Like "DACA, Mass Parole For Afghans, Ukrainians, Venezuelans, Etc." "Management Directives and policies should realign to ensure that the workforce, while adaptable and able to handle the bulk of the USCIS mission, is not allowed to be pulled off mission work to focus on unlawful programs (DACA, mass parole for Afghans, Ukrainians, Venezuelans, etc.), which divert resources away from nuclear family and employment programs." [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 145 [2023](#)]

Project 2025 Accused The Biden Administration Of Extending "Employment Authorization To Large Groups Of People Who Are In The Country Without Legal Status." "While the Biden regulatory agenda has focused on at least two major rules—the credible fear rule and the public charge rule—USCIS has utilized other policy and internal procedural mechanisms to extend employment authorization to large groups of people who are in the country without legal status. The agency has taken quiet steps to cut corners and lessen adjudicatory standards." [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 144 [2023](#)]

Project 2025 Called For Restoring Trump Administration Immigration Rules And Eliminating Policies Inconsistent With Project 2025.

Project 2025 Proposed Restoring Trump Administration Immigration Rules, Including The Public Charge Rule And "Reforms" To Temporary Work Visas, Employment Authorization, And Asylum. "The regulatory agenda should include the immediate submission of notices of proposed rulemaking for the Trump

Administration’s public charge rule (including aspects from its original notice of proposed rulemaking), temporary work visa reform, employment authorization reform rules, asylum bars rule, and a third-country transit rule. At a minimum, an enhanced regulatory agenda should include rules strengthening the integrity of the asylum system, parole reform, and U visa reform that prioritizes relief for victims of heinous crimes and ensures that we protect the truest and most deserving victims of crime.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 145 [2023](#)]

Project 2025 Called For Repealing Any USCIS “Internal Agency Memo That Is Inconsistent With The Priorities” Of Project 2025. “USCIS priorities/structural changes [...] 3. Review and repeal any internal agency memo that is inconsistent with the priorities described in this chapter.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 152 [2023](#)]

Cuccinelli’s Chapter Proposes Using The Military To Secure The Border And Build A Border Wall, Allow More Rapid Expulsions Of Migrants, Repeal Protections For Unaccompanied Minors, And Even Issue “A Formal Apology” To Border Agents Accused Of Whipping Migrants.

Project 2025 Proposed Using Active-Duty U.S. Military To Secure The Border And Called On The Defense Department To Help In “Aggressively Building The Border Wall System.”

Project 2025 Called For Use Of U.S. Military Personnel “To Secure Our Nation’s Borders Effectively.” “The BSIA should establish clear mission requirements, responsibilities, and mandates under existing law regarding the persistent need for and utilization of U.S. military personnel and resources to assist BSIA with increasing whole-of-government efforts and long-term strategy to secure our nation’s borders effectively. In addition, appropriate elements within the newly created BSIA should be designated as part of the U.S. National Security and Intelligence Community.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 139, [2023](#)]

Project 2025 Called For The Deployment Of Active-Duty Military Personnel To Patrol The Southern Border. “Department of Defense: Assist in aggressively building the border wall system on America’s southern border. Additionally, explicitly acknowledge and adjust personnel and priorities to participate actively in the defense of America’s borders, including using military personnel and hardware to prevent illegal crossings between ports of entry and channel all cross-border traffic to legal ports of entry.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 166-167 [2023](#)]

Project 2025 Proposed A “Mandatory Appropriation” For A Border Wall. “Mandatory appropriation for border wall system infrastructure. The monies appropriated would be used to fund the construction of additional border wall systems, technology, and personnel in strategic locations in accordance with the Border Security Improvement Plan (BSIP).” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 147 [2023](#)]

Project 2025 Called On The Defense Department To “Assist In Aggressively Building The Border Wall System.” “Department of Defense: Assist in aggressively building the border wall system on America’s southern border. Additionally, explicitly acknowledge and adjust personnel and priorities to participate actively in the defense of America’s borders, including using military personnel and hardware to prevent illegal crossings between ports of entry and channel all cross-border traffic to legal ports of entry.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 166-167 [2023](#)]

Project 2025 Proposed Adding More Border Patrol And Restarting Horse-Mounted Patrols, Even Calling On The Next Conservative DHS Secretary

To “Clear The Record” And “Issue A Formal Apology” For Border Agents Accused Of Whipping Migrants.

Project 2025 Called For Adding Border Patrol Personnel To Handle Administrative Duties And Allow Uniformed Agents To Return To Patrol. “Increased funding is needed for BP to hire additional support personnel, which would relieve uniformed BP agents from administrative duties associated with processing aliens and allow them to return to their national security mission.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 140, [2023](#)]

Project 2025 Called For Restarting And Expanding The Use Of Horseback-Mounted Border Patrol. “CBP should restart and expand use of the horseback-mounted Border Patrol. As part of this announcement, the Secretary should clear the records and personnel files of those who were falsely accused by Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas of whipping migrants and issue a formal apology on behalf of DHS and CBP.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 139, [2023](#)]

- **Project 2025 Called On The Next Conservative DHS Secretary To “Clear The Records And Personnel Files Of Those Who Were Falsely Accused [...] of Whipping Migrants And Issue A Formal Apology On Behalf Of DHS And CBP.”** [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 139, [2023](#)]

Project 2025 Proposed New Rules To Institute More Rapid Expulsions Of Unauthorized Migrants Who Are Apprehended At The Border.

Project 2025 Called On Congress “To Ensure That Expedited Removal Is Used To The Fullest Extent.” “Other pathways for border crossers. While Congress should use its oversight authority to ensure that Expedited Removal is used to the fullest extent and followed to the letter of the law, other paths for border crossers should be included in a legislative package.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 149 [2023](#)]

Project 2025 Proposed Creating A New Authority To Immediately Expel Immigrants Apprehended At The Border, Similar To The Title 42 Authority Used To Expel Immigrants To Prevent The Spread Of COVID. “Title 42 authority in Title 8. Create an authority akin to the Title 42 Public Health authority that has been used during the COVID-19 pandemic to expel illegal aliens across the border immediately when certain nonhealth conditions are met, such as loss of operational control of the border.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 147 [2023](#)]

Project 2025 Called For Repealing Statutory Protections For Unaccompanied Minors Who Are Apprehended And Detained.

Project 2025 Proposed Repealing Section 235 Of The William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act Of 2008, To Remove Incentives For Unaccompanied Minors To Cross The Border Without Authorization. “1. Congress should repeal Section 235 of the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 (TVPRA),⁹ which provides numerous immigration benefits to unaccompanied alien children and only encourages more parents to send their children across the border illegally and unaccompanied. These children too often become trafficking victims, which means that the TVPRA has failed.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 148 [2023](#)]

- **Section 235 Of The TVPRA Provides The Safe Repatriation Of Unaccompanied Children.** “Section 235 directed the Secretary of DHS, in conjunction with other federal agencies, to develop policies and procedures to ensure that unaccompanied children in the United States who are removed are safely repatriated to their countries of nationality or of last habitual residence. This provision also outlined essential legal procedures for unaccompanied children from contiguous (countries sharing a common

border) and non-contiguous countries. Children from Mexico and Canada must be screened within 48 hours of apprehension to determine whether the child has been subject to trafficking or is susceptible to being trafficked.” [U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants, “Where We Stand: A 20-Year Retrospective of the Unaccompanied Children’s Program in the United States” accessed [4/9/24](#)]

- **The TVPRA Also Provided Legal Protections For Unaccompanied Children Including Access To Legal Counsel And Child Advocates, As Well As Directing The Office Of Refugee Resettlement To Consider The Child’s “Best Interest.”** “The TVPRA also included other legal protections for unaccompanied children, including access to counsel, legal orientations, and child advocates. The law adjusted the requirements for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS). The law also directed the Secretary of HHS to determine when to conduct a home study along with follow-up services for children. The TVPRA also directed ORR to consider the child’s ‘best interest,’ as opposed to only the child’s interest, as was written in the Homeland Security Act. This specific child welfare language put more emphasis on the needs of the child. In addition to offering more protections to children, the TVPRA of 2008 created specific guidelines for the different roles of HHS and DHS.” [U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants, “Where We Stand: A 20-Year Retrospective of the Unaccompanied Children’s Program in the United States” accessed [4/9/24](#)]

Project 2025 Proposed Amending Section 235 Of The TVPRA To Repatriate All Unaccompanied Children, Not Just Children From Mexico And Canada. “2. If an alternative to repealing Section 235 of the TVPRA is necessary, the section should be amended so that all unaccompanied children, regardless of nationality, may be returned to their home countries in a safe and efficient manner. Currently, the TVPRA allows only children from contiguous countries (Canada and Mexico) to be returned while every other unaccompanied minor must be placed into a lengthy process that usually results in the minor’s landing in the custody of an illegal alien family member.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 148 [2023](#)]

Cuccinelli’s Chapter Would Make USCIS’s D.C. Office “Skeletal” While Expanding Enforcement In “Sensitive Areas” Like Schools, Churches, And Healthcare Facilities, Expand Workplace Raids, And Have Local Law Enforcement Use “Show Me Your Papers” Policies.

Project 2025 Called For Expanding Capacity To Enforce Immigration Laws, While Making USCIS’s D.C. Office “Skeletal.”

Project 2025 Said That A Successful DHS Would “Secure And Control The Border” And “Thoroughly Enforce Immigration Laws.” “A successful DHS would: Secure and control the border; Thoroughly enforce immigration laws; Correctly and efficiently adjudicate immigration benefit applications while rejecting fraudulent claims;” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 135, [2023](#)]

Project 2025 Called For All DHS “Personnel With Law Enforcement Capacity” To Be “Deployed To Field Billets To Maximize Law Enforcement Capacity.” “All personnel with law enforcement capacity should be removed immediately from office billets and deployed to field billets to maximize law enforcement capacity.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 137, [2023](#)]

Project 2025 Called For Funding 20,000 Enforcement And Removal Operations Officers And 5,000 Attorneys In The Office Of The Principal Legal Advisor To Represent DHS In Immigration Removal Cases. “Congress should fund ICE for at least 20,000 ERO officers and 5,000 Office of the Principal Legal Advisor (OPLA) attorneys.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 143 [2023](#)]

- **ICE Currently Has More Than 20,000 “Law Enforcement And Support Personnel.”** “ICE was created in 2003 through a merger of the investigative and interior enforcement elements of the former U.S. Customs Service and the Immigration and Naturalization Service. ICE now has more than 20,000

law enforcement and support personnel in more than 400 offices in the United States and around the world.” [Immigration and Customs Enforcement, [4/1/24](#)]

- **OPLA Currently Has More Than 1,300 Attorneys Who Represent DHS In Immigration Removal Cases.** “The Office of the Principal Legal Advisor (OPLA) is the largest legal program in DHS, with more than 1,300 attorneys and nearly 300 support personnel with diverse backgrounds and perspectives. Pursuant to statute, OPLA serves as the exclusive representative of DHS in immigration removal proceedings before the Executive Office for Immigration Review, litigating all removal cases including those against criminal noncitizens, terrorists, and human rights abusers.” [Immigration and Customs Enforcement, [2/2/24](#)]

Project 2025 Proposed Making USCIS’s D.C. Office “Skeletal” And Moving “Employees With Operational Or Security Roles” To Field Offices. “USCIS’s D.C. personnel presence should be skeletal, and agency employees with operational or security roles should be rotated out to offices throughout the United States. These USCIS employees should live and work in the communities that are most affected by their daily duties and decisions.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 147 [2023](#)]

Project 2025 Proposed Creating A Criminal Enforcement Component Within USCIS, With A Special Focus On “Forced Labor Trafficking In Temporary Work Visa Programs.” “Additionally, USCIS should create a criminal enforcement component within the agency to investigate immigration benefits fraud under Title 8 (perhaps requiring additional legislative and regulatory authorities for the officers themselves) and to prosecute cases through Special Assistant U.S. Attorneys (SAUSAs) with substantive knowledge in the field. Particular attention should be given to addressing increasing incidents of forced labor trafficking in temporary work visa programs.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 144 [2023](#)]

Project 2025 Proposed That Ice Eliminate Any Restrictions On Its Geographic Jurisdiction, Allowing Enforcement Actions In “Sensitive Areas.”

Project 2025 Called For Removing The “Self-Imposed Limitations On [Ice’s] Nationwide Jurisdiction.” “Most of the foregoing can be accomplished rapidly and effectively through executive action that is both lawful and appropriate. Additionally, ICE should clarify who is responsible for enforcing its criminal and civil authorities. It should also remove self-imposed limitations on its nationwide jurisdiction.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 142 [2023](#)]

Project 2025 Called For Ice To Arrest, Detain And Remove “Immigration Violators Anywhere In The United States” With Limited Restrictions Of Warrant Requirements “Where Appropriate.” “The role of ICE Deportation Officers should be clarified. ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) should be identified as being primarily responsible for enforcing civil immigration regulations, including the civil arrest, detention, and removal of immigration violators anywhere in the United States, without warrant where appropriate, subject only to the civil warrant requirements of the INA where appropriate.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 142 [2023](#)]

- **Project 2025 Emphasized The Word “Anywhere” In Their Manifesto.** [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 142 [2023](#)]

Project 2025 Called For Rescinding Memoranda Identifying Sensitive Zones Where Enforcement Actions Were Limited. “4. Rescind all memoranda limiting enforcement of immigration laws including those identifying sensitive zones.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 152 [2023](#)]

Project 2025 Called For Rescinding ICE Guidance On Where ICE Field Officers Were Prohibited From Operating. “All ICE memoranda identifying ‘sensitive zones’ where ICE personnel are prohibited from operating should be rescinded. Rely on the good judgment of officers in the field to avoid inappropriate situations.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 142 [2023](#)]

- Currently, ICE Considers Schools, Health Care Facilities, Places Of Worship, And Other Locations To Be “Protected Areas” Where Ice Officers Should “Refrain From Taking Enforcement Actions.”** “The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) issued a memorandum — Guidelines for Enforcement Actions In or Near Protected Areas — instructing officers to refrain from taking enforcement actions at or near locations or protected areas in October 2021. This policy is part of DHS’s effort to avoid restricting people’s access to essential services or engagement in essential activities. Protected Areas Protected areas are locations that provide essential services or activities. When determining if a location is a protected area, DHS considers the activities that take place there, the importance of those activities to the well-being of people and the communities of which they are a part and the impact an enforcement action would have on people’s willingness to be in the protected area and receive or engage in the essential services or activities that occur there. It is a determination that requires the exercise of judgment. Examples of protected areas include, but are not limited to: Schools Medical or mental healthcare facilities Places of worship or religious studies Places where children gather Social services establishments Places where disaster or emergency response/relief is provided Places where funerals, graveside ceremonies, rosaries, weddings, or other religious or civil ceremonies or observances occur Places where there are ongoing parades, demonstrations, or rallies.” [Immigration and Customs Enforcement, [2/2/24](#)]
- ICE Also Places Restrictions On Enforcement Actions At Courthouses, Though They Are Not Considered “Protected Areas.”** “Courthouses do not fall under ICE policies concerning enforcement actions in or near protected areas. To clarify policy on civil immigration enforcement actions related to courthouses, in April 2021, ICE and CBP jointly issued a memorandum — Civil Immigration Enforcement Actions In or Near Courthouses. [...] To uphold the rule of law, DHS ensures that courthouses are open to all people — regardless of citizenship. As a result, this memorandum provides guidance on when and how civil immigration law enforcement actions may be executed in or near a courthouse. This memorandum does not apply to criminal immigration enforcement actions. A courthouse includes any municipal, county, state, federal, tribal, or territorial courthouse, including immigration courts. "Near" the courthouse means in the close vicinity of the courthouse, including the entrance and exit of a courthouse, and in adjoining or related areas such as an adjacent parking lot or transportation point (such as a bus stop right outside a courthouse). It does not include adjacent buildings or houses that are not part of the courthouse or otherwise are not used for court-related business. When Enforcement Actions May Be Taken Civil immigration law enforcement actions at courthouses will only be executed in limited circumstances against public safety threats. Namely, civil immigration enforcement actions may be taken in or near courthouses if: It involves a national security threat There is imminent risk of death, violence, or physical harm to any person It involves the pursuit of an individual who poses a threat to public safety There is an imminent risk of destruction of evidence material to a criminal case In the absence of a hot pursuit, a civil immigration enforcement action may be taken in or near a courthouse against individuals who pose threats to public safety if: It is necessary to act in or near the courthouse because a safe alternative location does not exist or would be too difficult to achieve the enforcement action at such a location The action has been approved in advance by a Field Office Director, Special Agent in Charge, Chief Patrol Agent, or Port Director approval in advance of the enforcement action” [Immigration and Customs Enforcement, [2/2/24](#)]

Project 2025 Proposed Expanding ICE’s Use Of Its Expedited Removal Authority, And Not Be Limited To Persons Apprehended 100 Miles Of The Border. “To maximize the efficient use of its resources, ICE should make full use of existing Expedited Removal (ER) authorities. The agency has limited the use of ER to eligible aliens apprehended within 100 miles of the border. This is not a statutory requirement.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 142 [2023](#)]

Project 2025 Proposed Mandatory Use Of The E-Verify System And Use Of “Blackie’s Warrants,” Which Would Effectively Allow Workplace Raids.

Project 2025 Proposed Making Use Of The E-Verify System Mandatory. “Additionally, Congress should:[...] Permanently authorize and make mandatory E-Verify;” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 144-145 [2023](#)]

Project 2025 Called On Congress To Permanently Authorize And Make Mandatory The E-Verify System. “2. Congress should also permanently authorize E-Verify and make it mandatory.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 149 [2023](#)]

Project 2025 Called For Mandating E-Verify Use By “Anyone Doing Business With The Government.” “2. Mandate the use of E-Verify for anyone doing business with the government.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 151 [2023](#)]

Project 2025 Proposed “Operationalizing” The Use Of “Blackie’s Warrants” In ICE, Which Are “Commonly Used For Worksite Enforcement.” “The use of Blackies Warrants should be operationalized within ICE. These civil search warrants are commonly used for worksite enforcement when agents have probable cause that illegal aliens are employed at a business. This would streamline investigations.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 142 [2023](#)]

- **Blackie’s Warrants Do “Not Require” Investigators To Name Or Describe The Undocumented Persons Who Are Subject To Arrest And Detention.** “Even raids conducted with a legitimate warrant, often referred to as a ‘Blackie’s’ warrant, [Blackie’s House of Beef v. Castillo, (D.C. Cir. 1981)], are conducted in a dragnet fashion. The Blackie’s warrant does not require that the INS name or even describe the allegedly undocumented aliens it seeks. Consequently, the raid is conducted by barring the exits, and questioning everybody, or discriminatorily questioning those who ‘look foreign’ or speak with a foreign accent.” [ACLU of Southern California, [10/13/98](#)]
- **Project 2025 Called For “Operationalizing Blackie’s Warrants For Immediate Use On Works Enforcement.”** “Blackie’s Warrants. ICE OPLA, ERO, and HSI should issue a joint internal memo on operationalizing Blackie’s Warrants for immediate use on worksite enforcement and other appropriate investigations and operations.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 153 [2023](#)]

Project 2025 Called For Restricting Or Eliminating Prosecutorial Discretion In Immigration Enforcement Cases.

Project 2025 Called For Congress To “Restrict The Authority For Prosecutorial Discretion” In Immigration Enforcement Cases. “Prosecutorial discretion. Congress should restrict the authority for prosecutorial discretion to eliminate it as a ‘catch-all’ excuse for limiting immigration enforcement.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 150 [2023](#)]

Project 2025 Called For Restricting Prosecutorial Discretion In Immigration Enforcement Cases. “1. Restrict prosecutorial discretion to eliminate it as a ‘catch-all’ excuse for limiting immigration enforcement.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 151 [2023](#)]

Project 2025 Said That Ice Should Stop The Practice Of “Closing Out Pending Immigration Cases,” Which It Claimed Created A State Of “Lawlessness That Allowed Thousands Of Illegal Aliens” To Enter The U.S. “To return ICE to its primary mission, any new Administration that wishes to restore the rule of law to our immigration enforcement efforts should: Order ICE to stop closing out pending immigration cases and apply the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) as written by Congress. The Biden Administration closed out tens of thousands of immigration cases that had already been prepared and were slated for expedited removal processing or hearings before the U.S. Immigration Court. This misguided action constituted an egregious example of lawlessness that allowed thousands of illegal aliens and other immigration violators to go free in the United States.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 141, [2023](#)]

Project 2025 Effectively Called For Requiring ICE To Prosecute Every Case In Immigration Court And Avoid Termination Or Administrative Closures Of Cases. “5. End ICE’s widespread use of termination and administrative closure of cases in immigration court.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 152 [2023](#)]

Project 2025 Proposed Prohibiting ICE From “Ignoring Criminal Aliens Identified By Local Law Enforcement.” “Direct ICE to stop ignoring criminal aliens identified through the 287(g) program. Ultimately, Congress should prevent ICE from ignoring criminal aliens identified by local law enforcement agencies that are partners in the 287(g) program. However, before congressional action, ICE should be directed to take custody of all aliens with records for felonies, crimes of violence, DUIs, previous removals, and any other crime that is considered a national security or public safety threat as defined under current laws.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 141, [2023](#)]

- **The 287(G) Program Authorized ICE To “Delegate To State And Local Law Enforcement Officers The Authority To Perform Specified Immigration Officer Functions Under The Agency’s Direction And Oversight.”** “The Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 added Section 287(g) to the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) — authorizing U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to delegate to state and local law enforcement officers the authority to perform specified immigration officer functions under the agency’s direction and oversight. The 287(g) Program enhances the safety and security of our nation’s communities by allowing ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) to partner with state and local law enforcement agencies to identify and remove incarcerated criminal noncitizens who are amenable to removal from the U.S. before they are released into the community. ICE recognizes the importance of its relationships with its law enforcement partners to carry out its critical mission. The 287(g) program allows ICE — through the delegation of specified immigration officer duties — to enhance collaboration with state and local law enforcement partners to protect the homeland through the arrest and removal of noncitizens who undermine the safety of our nation’s communities and the integrity of U.S. immigration laws.” [Immigration and Customs Enforcement, accessed [4/8/24](#)]

Project 2025 Said That ICE Should “Take Custody Of All Aliens With Records For Felonies, Crimes Of Violence, Duis, Previous Removals, And Any Other Crime.” “However, before congressional action, ICE should be directed to take custody of all aliens with records for felonies, crimes of violence, DUIs, previous removals, and any other crime that is considered a national security or public safety threat as defined under current laws.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 141, [2023](#)]

Project 2025 Called On Congress To Explicitly Authorize Local Law Enforcement To Enforce Immigration Laws, Citing Arizona’s “Show Me Your Papers” Law For Non-Citizens As A Model.

Project 2025 Called On Congress To “Unequivocally Authorize” State And Local Law Enforcement To Participate In Immigration Enforcement And Border Security Actions. “1. Congress should unequivocally authorize state and local law enforcement to participate in immigration and border security actions in compliance with Arizona v. United States.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 150 [2023](#)]

- **The Arizona V. United States Decision Largely Struck Down An Arizona Statute Known As SB 1070 That Required Non-Citizens To Carry Registration Documents With Them And Allowed Local Law Enforcement To Enforce Federal Immigration Laws.** “SB 1070, known as the Support Our Law Enforcement and Safe Neighborhoods Act, was promulgated in Arizona in 2010. It prohibited non-citizens to be in Arizona without carrying the appropriate registration documents under federal law,

allowed local officials to enforce the federal immigration laws, and imposed harsh penalties on people assisting illegal immigrants.” [Justia, “Arizona v. United States, 567 U.S. 387 (2012),” [6/25/12](#)]

- **The Supreme Court Allowed The “Show Me Your Papers” Provision Of SB 1070 To Stand, Inviting “Racial Profiling Of Latinos And Others Who May Look Or Sound ‘foreign,’ Including Many U.S. Citizens Who Have Lived In America Their Entire Lives.”** “The Supreme Court has upheld SB 1070's notorious "show me yours papers" provision, deciding that it is not preempted by federal law. This provision has been blocked by lower courts in Arizona and other copycat states until now. Discriminatory laws like SB 1070 invite racial profiling of Latinos and others who may look or sound ‘foreign,’ including many U.S. citizens who have lived in American their entire lives.” [ACLU, accessed [4/9/24](#)]

Project 2025 Called For Prohibiting Any Jurisdiction From Being Denied Participation In The 287(G) Program Unless There Is Good Cause. “287(g) program. Issue a memo prohibiting any jurisdiction that applies from being denied access to the program unless good cause is shown.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 153 [2023](#)]

- **The 287(g) program allows state and local agencies to act as immigration enforcement agents.** “287(g) is a program for allowing state and local agencies to act as immigration enforcement agents. Under 287(g), ICE forms an agreement with a state or local agency - most often a county sheriff that runs a local jail - and this agreement delegates specific immigration enforcement authority to designated officers within the local agency. These agreements are also known as ‘287(g) contracts’ or ‘MOAs’ (Memorandum of Agreement). The program gets its name from section 287(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act.” [Immigration Legal Resource Center, [6/15/23](#)]
- **Immigration Legal Resource Center: “287(G) Agreements Are Designed To Extend The Reach Of The Trump Deportation Machine.”** “Why Are 287(g) Agreements Problematic? 287(g) agreements are designed to extend the reach of the Trump deportation machine by getting localities to do ICE’s work at their own expense. 287(g) agreements lead to racial profiling, civil rights violations, isolation of immigrant communities, and family separations. When local officials are working with ICE, police stop and harass Latinx residents at increased rates, while immigrants withdraw from their communities, avoid business that requires them to give their personal information, and decline to participate in public events where law enforcement may be present.” [Immigration Legal Resource Center, [6/15/23](#)]

Project 2025 Called For ICE And USCIS To Have Access To Government Databases, Including DMV Records, Voter Rolls, And IRS Records, To Fulfill Their Enforcement Duties.

Project 2025 Proposed Prohibiting States Or Local Governments From Receiving DHS Grants Unless The Jurisdiction Was Committed To “Total Information-Sharing” In Immigration Enforcement, Including “Access To Department Of Motor Vehicles And Voter Registration Databases.” ““All applicants and potential recipients of such grant funding should be required to meet certain preconditions for eligibility (except for receipt of post-disaster or nonhumanitarian funding) or should simply be considered ineligible for funding. Such preconditions should include at least the following: [...] If the applicant is a state or locality, commitment by that state or locality to total information-sharing in the context of both federal law enforcement and immigration enforcement. This would include access to department of motor vehicles and voter registration databases.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 137-138, [2023](#)]

Project 2025 Proposed Requiring The Treasury Department To “Provide DHS With All Tax Information Of Illegal Aliens As Expeditiously As Possible.” “Department of the Treasury: Implement all necessary regulations both to equalize taxes between American citizens and working visa holders and to provide DHS

with all tax information of illegal aliens as expeditiously as possible.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 167 [2023](#)]

Project 2025 Asserted That USCIS Requires Access To “All Relevant National Security And Law Enforcement Databases.” “Finally, USCIS still requires access to all relevant national security and law enforcement databases in the same vein as any other agency in the intelligence space. This is a key concept that should be addressed as USCIS is returned to functioning primarily as a vetting agency.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 145 [2023](#)]

Project 2025 Called For Designation USCIS As “Intelligence Community-Adjacent” To Provide It With Access To “National Security And Law Enforcement Databases.” “3. Designate USCIS as Intelligence Community–adjacent, ensuring that it has access to national security and law enforcement databases.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 152 [2023](#)]

Project 2024 Would Require “Sanctuary” Jurisdictions To Comply With ICE Detainers And Disincentivize Sanctuaries.

Project 2025 Called For Requiring Compliance With Immigration Detainers And Create Financial Disincentives For “Sanctuary” Jurisdictions. “2. Congress should require compliance with immigration detainers to the maximum extent consistent with the Tenth Amendment and set financial disincentives for jurisdictions that implement either official or unofficial sanctuary policies.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 150 [2023](#)]

Project 2025 Proposed Reimplementing The USCIS “Denaturalization Unit” That Would Strip More People Of Their Citizenship.

Project 2025 Proposed “Reimplementation Of The USCIS Denaturalization Unit” To More Strip Citizenship From People. “Other structural changes should include reimplementation of the USCIS denaturalization unit—an effort to maintain integrity in the system by identifying and prosecuting criminal and civil denaturalization cases, in combination with the Department of Justice, for aliens who obtained citizenship through fraud or other illicit means.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 143-144 [2023](#)]

Project 2025 Proposed Rejecting Efforts By The Judiciary To Assert Jurisdiction Matters That Would “Undermine Regulatory And Sub Regulatory Efforts”

Project 2025 Suggested That USCIS Make Its Own Determinations As To Whether Court Jurisdiction Exists And That USCIS Not Honor Legal Rulings Contrary To The Agency Decision. “USCIS should make it clear that where no court jurisdiction exists, it will not honor court decisions that seek to undermine regulatory and subregulatory efforts.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 145 [2023](#)]

Cuccinelli’s Chapter Would Expand Migrant Detentions By Increasing Detention Capacity, Including The Use Of Tents, And Lowering Detention Standards, All While Eliminating Government Watchdogs, Including The Office Of The Immigration Detention Ombudsman.

Project 2025 Would Require More Detentions Of Persons Alleged To Have Violated Immigration Laws.

Project 2025 Called On Congress To Require Detention Of Undocumented Immigrants. “Mandatory detention. Congress should eliminate ambiguous discretionary language in Title 8 that aliens ‘may’ be detained and clarify that aliens ‘shall’ be detained. This language, which contrasts with other ‘shall detain’ language in statute, creates unhelpful ambiguity and allows the executive branch to ignore the will of Congress.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 150 [2023](#)]

Project 2025 Called On CBP To “Turn Illegal Aliens Over To ICE For Detention” And Stop Using Notices To Appear Except In Cases Of Medical Emergencies. “CBP, ICE, and USCIS all have authority to issue Notices to Appear (NTA) to removable aliens in their presence, which begins removal proceedings. In most instances, CBP should turn illegal aliens over to ICE for detention, and ICE can then issue any needed NTA. CBP should issue NTAs only in limited situations for humanitarian reasons, such as medical emergencies. In addition, CBP should eliminate use of Notices to Report (NTR) altogether.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 140, [2023](#)]

Project 2025 Proposed Restricting Detained Immigrants From Posting Bond For Release From Detention. “Issue clear guidance regarding detention and bond for aliens. Thousands of illegal aliens are allowed to bond out of immigration detention only to disappear into the interior of the United States where many commit crimes and many others disappear, never to be heard from again. This occurs primarily because of poorly worded bond regulations, contradictory bond policy memoranda, and poor practices for managing released aliens and the Alternatives to Detention (ATD) Program, which requires significant reform.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 141, [2023](#)]

Project 2025 Called On Congress To Limit Immigration Parole To Being An “Extraordinary Remedy For Very Limited Purpose.” “Parole reform. Congress should end the widespread abuse of parole in contravention of statute and return it to its origins as an extraordinary remedy for very limited purposes.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 149 [2023](#)]

Project 2025 Called For Executive Action To Eliminate The Use Of Alternatives To Detention For People Who Cross The Border. “Executive Orders Pathways for border crossers [...] 6. Eliminate the use of ATD for border crossers except in rare cases and only with the explicit authority of the Secretary.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 151 [2023](#)]

Project 2025 Called For Executive Action To Prohibit The Use Of Parole In Categorical Circumstances. “Executive Orders Pathways for border crossers [...] 7. Prohibit the use of parole except in matters that are certified by the Secretary of Homeland Security as requiring action for humanitarian or significant public benefit reasons, and prohibit the use of parole in any categorical circumstance.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 151 [2023](#)]

Project 2025 Called For Executive Action To Prohibit The Use Of Notices To Report, The Use Of Funds To Travel Into The U.S. Away From The Border Region, And Government Transportation For Unauthorized Migrants. “Executive Orders Pathways for border crossers [...] 4. Prohibit the use of Notices to Report, the use of any funds for travel into the interior of the United States, and government flights or transportation for aliens.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 151 [2023](#)]

Project 2025 Called For Eliminating Funds For NGOs “To Process And Transport” Unauthorized Immigrants In The U.S., Saying The Funds Should Be Redirected To “Secure The Border, Detain Aliens, And Provide Space For Immigration Court Proceedings.” “NGOs and processing. Congress should halt funds given to nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) to process and transport illegal aliens into and throughout the United States. Such funds and infrastructure, including the DHS joint processing centers, should be redirected to secure the border, detain aliens, and provide space for immigration court proceedings.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 149 [2023](#)]

Project 2025 Proposed Increasing Migrant Detention Capacity.

Project 2025 Said That The Next Conservative President Should Request A Budget That Fully Accounts For The Costs Of “Establishing And Maintaining Temporary Facilities” To Hold Migrants, So That The Costs Don’t Impact The Rest Of CBP’s And DHS’s Budgets. “The annual costs associated with establishing and maintaining temporary facilities to address the flow of illegal migration and associated care, transportation, and processing are prohibitive, and CBP’s budget is inadequate. CBP is forced to forgo critical mission-essential endeavors to fund the additional associated costs. Often, this requires the reprogramming of funding at the DHS level, which has a negative impact on other DHS components’ operations. This predictable cost that has to be paid from existing CBP and DHS funding levels reduces CBP’s operational readiness and ability to accomplish its diverse and critical missions to protect the American people. The next President should request a realistic budget that fully pays for these costs.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 140, [2023](#)]

Project 2025 Proposed Additional Funding To Increase The Number Of Beds For Detained Immigrants To 100,000. “Congress should mandate and fund additional bed space for alien detainees. ICE should be funded for a significant increase in detention space, raising the daily available number of beds to 100,000.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 143 [2023](#)]

Project 2025 Proposed Lowering Detention Standards And Increasing The Use Of Tent Facilities.

Project 2025 Called For Codifying A Nationwide Detention Standard For Migrants That “Allow The Flexibility To Use Large Numbers Of Temporary Facilities Such As Tents.” “CBP’s established national standards of Transport, Escort, Detention, and Search (TEDS) have been widely interpreted and expanded by lower courts. This has resulted in unrealistic and differing detention standards for CBP facilities based on the jurisdiction within which they fall, negatively impacting operations. ICE has suffered similarly. A single nationwide detention standard should be codified that prevents individual states from mandating that federal government agencies adhere to widely expansive and ever-changing sets of standards. Such standards should allow the flexibility to use large numbers of temporary facilities such as tents.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 140, [2023](#)]

Project 2025 Called For Mandatory Use Of All ICE Detention Space In Compliance With Section 235 Of The Immigration And Naturalization Act, Including Authority To Use Tents To Hold Detainees. “Executive Orders Pathways for border crossers [...] 5. Mandate that ICE use all detention space in full compliance with Section 235 of the INA, issue weekly reports on detention capacity, and provide authority for low-level temporary capacity (for example, tents) once permanent space is full.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 151 [2023](#)]

Project 2025 Proposed Ending The Flores Settlement Agreement And Allowing For The “Large-Scale Use Of Temporary Facilities (For Example, Tents).” “3. Congress must end the Flores Settlement Agreement by explicitly setting nationwide terms and standards for family and unaccompanied detention and housing. Such standards should focus on meeting human needs and should allow for large-scale use of temporary facilities (for example, tents).” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 148 [2023](#)]

- **The Flores Settlement Agreement Requires That Children In Immigration Custody—Unaccompanied Minors—Must Be Housed In Settings That Meet State Standards For Dependent Children And Provide Safe And Sanitary Conditions, Including Drinking Water And Food, Medical Assistance, Temperature Control, And Contact With Family Members.** “In 1997, the U.S. government reached an agreement known as the Flores Settlement Agreement, which arose out of Flores v. Reno, a 1987 California case. The class-action lawsuit ended in a stipulated settlement agreement outlining standards for the detention and release of unaccompanied minors taken into the custody of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), now handled by the Department of

Homeland Security and the Department of Health and Human Services. The Flores settlement requires that minors in INS custody must be housed in facilities that meet certain standards, including state standards for housing and care of dependent children. The settlement also establishes state licensing authority over detention facilities and defines a “licensed program” as any program, agency or organization that is licensed by an appropriate state agency to provide residential, group or foster care services for dependent children. Under the agreement, INS is required to place minors in the least restrictive setting appropriate to the child’s age and special needs, provide notice of rights, safe and sanitary facilities, toilets and sinks, drinking water and food, medical assistance, temperature control, supervision, and contact with family members, among other requirements.” [National Conference of State Legislatures, [10/30/18](#)]

Project 2025 Proposed Amending The Homeland Security Act And The TVPRA To Provide DHS With Jurisdiction Over The Detention Of Children Instead Of HHS. “4. Congress should amend the Homeland Security Act and portions of the TVPRA to move detention of alien children expressly from the Department of Health and Human Services to DHS.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 148 [2023](#)]

Project 2025 Proposed Eliminating Immigration Detention Government Watchdogs, Including The Office Of The Immigration Detention Ombudsman And The Office Of The Citizenship And Immigration Services Ombudsman.

Project 2025 Proposed Abolishing The Office Of The Immigration Detention Ombudsman (OIDO). “OFFICE OF THE IMMIGRATION DETENTION OMBUDSMAN (OIDO) AND OFFICE OF THE CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES OMBUDSMAN (CISOMB) OIDO. The Office of the Immigration Detention Ombudsman should be eliminated. This requires a statutory change in Section 106 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2020. OIDO was designed to create another impediment to detention through an additional layer of so-called oversight. Several agencies already perform detention oversight. ICE conducts internal audits of facilities and investigates complaints against ICE agents through the Office of Professional Responsibility. Similarly, CBP accepts individual complaints regarding facilities through the Joint Intake Center and manages complaints against agents through the OPR. In addition, CRCL, OIG, GAO, and Congress all perform detention oversight. These multiple bodies place unmanageable and unreasonable burdens on ICE to manage several sometimes inconsistent audits/inspections at the same time.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 165-166 [2023](#)]

- **Project 2025 Assured That OIDO Was Created To Be “Another Impediment To Detention” And Said Its Oversight Mission Was Duplicative.** “The Office of the Immigration Detention Ombudsman should be eliminated. This requires a statutory change in Section 106 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2020. OIDO was designed to create another impediment to detention through an additional layer of so-called oversight. Several agencies already perform detention oversight. ICE conducts internal audits of facilities and investigates complaints against ICE agents through the Office of Professional Responsibility. Similarly, CBP accepts individual complaints regarding facilities through the Joint Intake Center and manages complaints against agents through the OPR. In addition, CRCL, OIG, GAO, and Congress all perform detention oversight. These multiple bodies place unmanageable and unreasonable burdens on ICE to manage several sometimes inconsistent audits/inspections at the same time.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 165-166 [2023](#)]

Project 2025 Proposed Stripping CRCL Of Its Immigration Portfolio If OIDO Is Not Eliminated. “If OIDO remains a DHS component, the Secretary should immediately issue a directive stripping CRCL of its immigration portfolio. OIDO is in a better position with dedicated resources and immigration experts to perform this function than CRCL is. Allowing both offices to conduct detention oversight is duplicative and wasteful.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 166 [2023](#)]

Project 2025 Proposed Eliminating The Office Of The Citizenship And Immigration Services Ombudsman, Saying The Dhs Bureaucracy Is Too Large.

“CISOMB. The Office of the Citizenship and Immigration Services Ombudsman should be eliminated. The DHS bureaucracy is too large, and the Secretary has too many direct reports. CISOMB’s policy functions can be performed (and sometimes already are) by OIG and GAO. The specialized case work can be moved into USCIS as a special unit, much like the IRS Taxpayer Advocate. This would require a statutory change to Section 452 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002.”

[Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 166 [2023](#)]

Project 2025 Proposed Prohibit CISOMB “From Assisting Illegal Aliens To Obtain Benefits,” If It Is Not

Abolished. “If CISOMB continues as a DHS component, a policy should be issued that prohibits CISOMB from assisting illegal aliens to obtain benefits. Currently, approximately 15 percent–20 percent of CISOMB’s workload consists of helping DACA applicants obtain and renew benefits, including work authorization. This is not the role of an ombudsman. In addition, the government should be a neutral adjudicator, not an advocate for illegal aliens.” [Project 2025, Chapter 5: Department of Homeland Security, p. 166 [2023](#)]