

U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

JOINT HEARING BETWEEN THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION, BORDER SECURITY, AND CITIZENSHIP AND THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON TERRORISM, TECHNOLOGY, AND HOMELAND SECURITY

HEARING – “STRENGTHENING INTERIOR ENFORCEMENT: DEPORTATION AND RELATED ISSUES”

APRIL 14, 2005

STATEMENT OF CO-CHAIRMAN KYL

Good afternoon, and welcome to this joint hearing, which will examine the challenges facing the Department of Homeland Security as it goes about the business of apprehending, detaining, and removing illegal aliens from the interior of the United States. We will also examine the challenges facing the Department of Justice as it litigates immigration cases in the Federal courts. Let me take this opportunity to let you, Mr. Cohn, know that many members of Congress deeply appreciate the work that the Department does to defend and maintain the integrity of the immigration laws in our courts. The Office of Immigration Litigation, and United States Attorney’s Offices throughout the country, have kept the quality of representation high even as the number of immigration cases has soared. We are also conscious of the fact that you are doing a very fine job despite constraints on your resources. We would like to learn from you today what Congress might be able to do to assist you in that area, in addition to taking action on the legislative changes that you have discussed in your written statement.

Mr. Cerda, I also wish to congratulate you and the Department of Homeland Security on the work that Detention and Removal Operations is doing to capture, hold, and remove illegal aliens from the United States. I am impressed with the long-range strategic vision that Immigration and Customs Enforcement has formulated for dealing with the absconders and criminal fugitives who are at large in the United States. I am especially pleased with your efforts to track and locate sexual predators who would prey on our children. You have located some 5,000 of them – continue the good work, find every one of them, and deport them back to where they came from. I and other members of Congress are aware of the budget and resource problems that ICE is having. We would like you to be as frank as possible in advising Congress what it is you need to fully enforce our immigration laws from the point of apprehension to the point of removal.

I also wish to join the panel in welcoming David Venturella from U.S. Investigation Services, and Lee Getlern from the American Civil Liberties Union. We are looking to your testimony today.