

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 16, 2026

Administrator Kelly Loeffler
U.S. Small Business Administration
409 3rd St., SW
Washington, DC 20416.

Hon. Casey B. Mulligan
Office of Advocacy
409 3rd St., SW
Washington, DC 20416.

Dear Administrator Loeffler:

I am writing to express my concern regarding the severe economic impact that Operation Midway Blitz has had on the small business community in Illinois. I strongly urge the Small Business Administration (SBA) to immediately take action to support small businesses across the state of Illinois and any other communities that have documented substantial economic losses due to immigration enforcement operations.

In September 2025, DHS launched Operation Midway Blitz in Chicago and surrounding metropolitan areas, militarizing civilian zones and disrupting daily life for thousands of residents. The deployment of federal agents produced well-documented economic harm, particularly for small businesses. Since its inception, Operation Midway Blitz has driven a year-over-year revenue decline of 20–50% for many local enterprises.¹ Small businesses have also faced a dual crisis as the fear of enforcement raids depresses their customer base and workforce, while simultaneously discouraging immigrant entrepreneurs from accessing the capital necessary to sustain their operations.² This downturn poses an existential threat to Illinois' small business ecosystem, including over 146,000 immigrant-operated businesses that contribute nearly \$3.8 billion in annual income to our state.³

Small businesses across Illinois have reported steep declines in foot traffic, significant revenue loss, and acute workforce instability.⁴ Beyond harming profit margins and long-term viability, these factors have also reduced tax revenue for state and local governments. The economic strain, compounded by tariffs and political decisions such as the closure of the SBA's regional office in Chicago, has left small business owners with fewer resources during a time of crisis manufactured by the Trump Administration.⁵

The economic repercussions are most pronounced in neighborhoods with significant Latino populations, including Rogers Park, Pilsen, and Little Village. Restaurants, retailers, and service providers have experienced sustained downturns as consumer activity has stalled and workforce participation has been hindered by fear and

¹ Marlen Garcia, "Immigration Crackdown Hurts Chicago's Latino Businesses," Crain's Chicago Business, accessed April 15, 2026, <https://www.chicagobusiness.com/elevate/chicago-latino-businesses-hurt-immigration-policies/>.

² House Committee on Small Business Democratic Staff, "The Dying American Dream and the Trump Administration, Part I: Immigrant Entrepreneurs," House Committee on Small Business Democrats, accessed April 15, 2026, <https://docs.house.gov/meetings/SM/SM00/20260325/119087/HHRG-119-SM00-20260325-SD005.pdf>.

³ "Operation Midway Blitz: The Economic and Human Costs to Illinois Communities," State of Illinois Newsroom, accessed April 15, 2026, <https://gov-pritzker-newsroom.prezly.com/operation-midway-blitz-the-economic-and-human-costs-to-illinois-communities>.

⁴ Joanna Hernandez, "From Businesses to Churches, How 'Operation Midway Blitz' Has Impacted Daily Life for Chicagoans," WTTW News, December 14, 2025, accessed April 15, 2026, <https://news.wttw.com/2025/12/15/businesses-churches-how-operation-midway-blitz-has-impacted-daily-life-chicagoans>

⁵ U.S. Small Business Administration, "Administrator Loeffler Applauds House Passage of 'Save SBA from Sanctuary Cities Act,'" news release, June 4, 2025, accessed April 15, 2026, <https://www.sba.gov/article/2025/06/05/administrator-loeffler-applauds-house-passage-save-sba-sanctuary-cities-act>.

uncertainty.⁶ Analysis by the Chicago Tribune, drawing on Department of Justice data, found that roughly 97% of more than 600 Chicago-area residents detained in recent ICE raids had no criminal record, underscoring how enforcement actions have swept up workers and community members rather than the “worst of the worst”.⁷ Many business owners have reported that the impacts of these raids are more severe than the disruptions experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic, with several enterprises fearing permanent closure within months.⁸

Nowhere are these consequences more clearly illustrated than in Broadview, Illinois. Given the presence of an ICE-operated facility in Broadview, it has been ground zero for DHS and its unlawful actions during Operation Midway Blitz. As a result, Broadview has faced acute obstacles in recovering from the economic onslaught dealt with by the occupation of the town by federal agents over the fall of 2025. According to Broadview Mayor Katrina Thompson, businesses in the village have collectively lost over \$350,000 in revenue as a direct result of Operation Midway Blitz. For a small community, this level of economic loss is devastating and underscores how quickly federal enforcement actions can destabilize local economies. Business owners in Broadview have faced reduced customer turnout, canceled transactions, and ongoing uncertainty, placing additional strain on enterprises that are vital to the community’s economic health.⁹

The scale of these impacts raises serious questions regarding the absence of safeguards or mitigation measures for small businesses caught in the wake of federal operations. Considering these circumstances, I strongly urge the SBA to use any tools at your disposal to support Chicago-area small businesses facing documented revenue losses from Operation Midway Blitz.

I further request that the SBA Office of Advocacy immediately undertake a formal economic impact assessment of Operation Midway Blitz, including neighborhood-level data on business closures, revenue losses, and employment disruption, and that the findings be made public and transmitted to my office no later than June 15, 2026.

Thank you for your prompt attention to the severe economic harm this operation has inflicted on communities across Illinois. I expect a timely response.

Sincerely,



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress

⁶ Jonathan Wolfe, “Some Chicago Businesses Feeling the Impact of Trump’s Immigration Blitz,” *New York Times*, October 17, 2025, accessed April 15, 2026, <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/10/17/us/chicago-economy-business-immigration-crackdown.html>.

⁷ Meisner, Jason, Madeline Buckley, Gregory Royal Pratt, and Rebecca Johnson. “Only 16 of 614 ‘Midway Blitz’ Arrestees Had Criminal Histories.” *Chicago Tribune*, 14 Nov. 2025, www.chicagotribune.com/2025/11/14/only-2-5-on-list-of-614-operation-midway-blitz-arrestees-had-criminal-histories-doj-records-show/.

⁸ Marlen Garcia, “Immigration Crackdown Hurts Chicago’s Latino Businesses,” *Crain’s Chicago Business*, accessed April 15, 2026, <https://www.chicagobusiness.com/elevate/chicago-latino-businesses-hurt-immigration-policies/>.

⁹ ABC7 Chicago Digital Team, “Broadview, Illinois Mayor Says Chicago Immigration Operation ‘Midway Blitz’ Cost Village and Businesses \$700K, Seeks Reimbursement,” *ABC7 Chicago*, March 24, 2026, accessed April 15, 2026, <https://abc7chicago.com/post/broadview-illinois-mayor-says-chicago-immigration-operation-midway-blitz-cost-village-businesses-700k-seeks-reimbursement/18765975/>.