

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 8, 2025

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden,

We are writing to you as members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus to request that you direct the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to immediately collect and release information on the historical surveillance of Latino American communities, particularly during the civil rights movements of the 1960s and 1970s.

The Latino civil rights movement took place during a pivotal period in our nation's history, marked by the struggle for equality, justice, and recognition of the fundamental rights of all Americans. During this time, the FBI and CIA used their authority to inappropriately monitor, infiltrate, and disrupt the peaceful activities of American citizens.

Much of this surveillance is a matter of public record through press reports and previous U.S. government disclosures, but our understanding is many documents from this period remain unreleased.

On March 11, 2024, two members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus who serve on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, Representatives Joaquin Castro (TX-20) and Jimmy Gomez (CA-34), requested that CIA Director William J. Burns and FBI Director Christopher A. Wray collect and publicly release any materials pertaining to surveillance of the Latino civil rights movement following any required classification reviews of those materials.

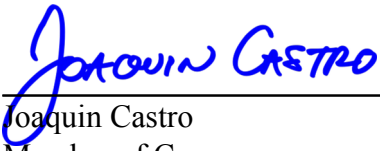
In the months since, CIA Director Burns and his agency have acted in good faith, providing members with regular updates of their progress in responding to these requests, culminating in a release of 55 documents related to the CIA's historical surveillance of Latino Americans on December 24, 2024. We appreciate Director Burns' commitment to transparency and his leadership at the Agency.

The FBI, on the other hand, has not been responsive. The FBI provided a written acknowledgement of the members' request on September 13, 2024, six months after the initial request. The FBI has neither provided a timeline for the release of any documents nor committed to releasing anything new, instead directing Members of Congress to submit a Freedom of

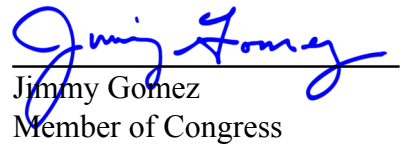
Information Act request. This is particularly concerning given the FBI's historic role in the surveillance of the civil rights movements, including the Latino civil rights movement.

Given this lack of action on the part of the FBI, as members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and in light of the substantial historical significance and public interest in these materials, we request that you direct Director Wray and the FBI to immediately take actions to identify and release these historical records to provide transparency, as the CIA has done.

Sincerely,



Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress



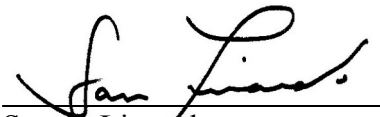
Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress



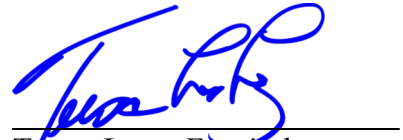
Alex Padilla
United States Senator



Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



Sam Liccardo
Member of Congress



Teresa Leger Fernández
Member of Congress



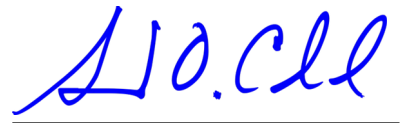
Robert J. Menendez
Member of Congress



Veronica Escobar
Member of Congress




Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress



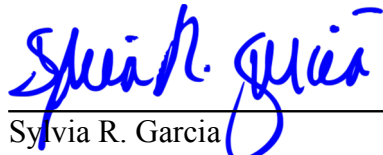
Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



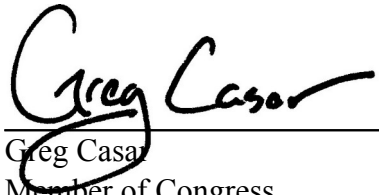
Delia C. Ramirez
Member of Congress



Robert Garcia
Member of Congress



Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress




Greg Casar
Member of Congress



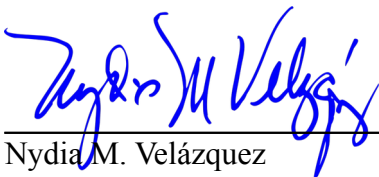
Nellie Pou
Member of Congress



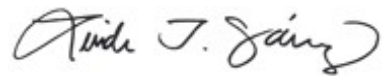
Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress



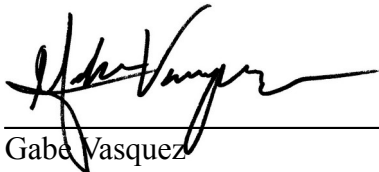
Emily Randall
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



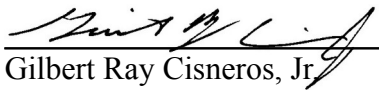
Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress



Gabe Vasquez
Member of Congress



Raul Ruiz, M.D.
Member of Congress



Gilbert Ray Cisneros, Jr.
Member of Congress

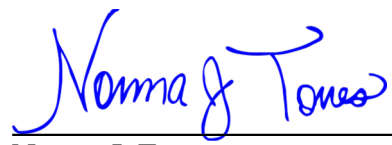


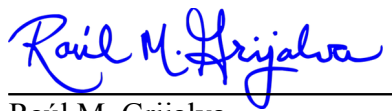
Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress

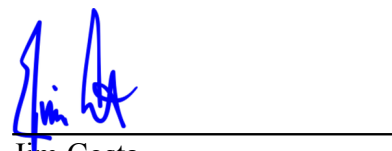


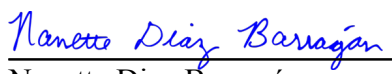
Lori Trahan
Member of Congress

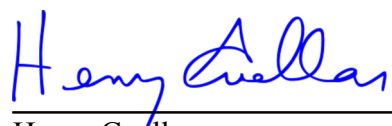

Maxwell Alejandro Frost
Member of Congress

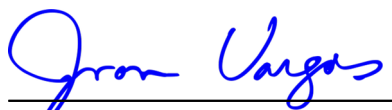

Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress

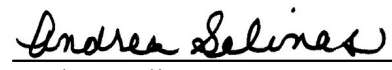

Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress

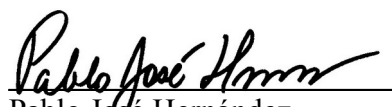

Jim Costa
Member of Congress

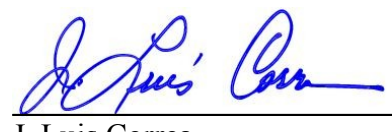

Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress


Henry Cuellar
Member of Congress


Juan Vargas
Member of Congress


Andrea Salinas
Member of Congress


Pablo José Hernández
Member of Congress


J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress

CC:

The Honorable William J. Burns, Director, Central Intelligence Agency

The Honorable Christopher A. Wray, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation