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My Statement on ICE and Federal Limits Following the February 9th Congressional Forum

[PHILADELPHIA, PA] – I am writing to provide a transparent update on my policy platform following the candidate forum held in Center City on February 9th. During that event, I debated five Democratic candidates regarding the future of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). I advocated for federal reform of the agency to protect our citizens from illegal aliens. My opponents called to abolish the agency entirely.

I have spent the time since that forum reviewing the original scope of Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution. I realized that my previous position relied on a concept called "Inherent Power." This concept suggests the federal government has certain powers just because it is a national government. I now see that this view contradicts my commitment to being an originalist.

The Constitution grants the federal government the power to establish a uniform rule of naturalization. This refers to the process of becoming a citizen. It does not explicitly grant the power to police borders or manage deportations through a civilian agency.

Under Article I, Section 8, the federal government has the power to provide for the common defense and repel invasions. This is a military responsibility. The Army, Navy, and Militia are the proper authorities for protecting the nation from foreign intruders at the border.

Once an individual is inside the country, they fall under the police power. The Constitution does not give the federal government a general police power. The authority to track individuals, regulate local labor, and manage residency belongs to the states under the 10th Amendment.

I misinterpreted the Constitution when I advocated for federal ICE reform at the forum. I now believe that the federal government must focus its resources on securing the physical border through the military. I believe the states should handle the management of people within their own jurisdictions.

I promised to be a representative who reads the fine print. I am sticking to that promise by aligning my platform with the enumerated powers of the Constitution. I will support efforts to return these responsibilities to the states and local communities.

I have updated my platform on my website to reflect this commitment to constitutional limits. You can view my full standard for representation at
<https://alex schnellpa3.com/constitution.html>.

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