

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Congressman Steve King (R-IA) today released the following statement after learning of remarks made by John Morton, Assistant Secretary of United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (I.C.E.), which call Morton's commitment to enforcing the nation's immigration laws into question. According to the Chicago Tribune, Morton stated that his agency "will not necessarily process immigrants referred to them by Arizona officials" for deportation. Morton justified his position by asserting that Arizona's newly enacted law targeting illegal immigration was, in his opinion, not representative of "good government."

"Contrary to the views of Assistant Secretary Morton, and contrary to the views of the Obama Administration, enforcing the nation's immigration laws is 'good government'," said King. **"Mr. Morton should realize that in his role at Immigration and Customs Enforcement, he is entrusted with the responsibility to ensure the enforcement of the laws that are on the books. Nothing grants Mr. Morton the ability to ignore the application of the United States' immigration laws simply because he has personal objections to them."**

"If Mr. Morton wants to be in a position in which his preferred policy objectives can be given the force of law, perhaps he should run for Congress so that he may have a hand in drafting legislation. Until such time, he should remember that the American people expect him either to fully enforce the nation's immigration laws as written or to make way for those who will."

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