

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 30, 2025

The Honorable Kristi Noem
Secretary of Homeland Security
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave SE
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Noem:

Following reports of illegal immigration enforcement actions by agents from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), we sent a July 18, 2025, letter to the DHS Office of Inspector General (DHS OIG) seeking additional information and requesting an investigation.¹ Since that time, we have seen an alarming increase in news reports and videos showing federal law enforcement officers under your direction using what appears to be excessive and often grossly unlawful force, behaving unprofessionally, and illegally detaining individuals.

The DHS OIG's response to our letter indicated that you, as the Secretary of Homeland Security, "would be in a better position to give [...] an authoritative answer" to our questions and concerns about what increasingly appears to be a systematic pattern of unlawful behavior and gross abuses of the civil rights of Americans by agents under your purview.² In light of mounting evidence of abuse from media reporting and publicly available video, we are demanding that your office provide us with those answers directly, as required by the Constitution.³

The passage of H.R. 1 in July of this year has infused DHS with billions of dollars in additional funding meant to expand ICE by 10,000 new agents.⁴ Over the same period, DHS and its component agencies, along with several Department of Justice (DOJ) components, appear to have engaged in an alarming pattern of abuse during immigration enforcement actions. In

¹ Press Release, *Rep. Dave Min, Representative Dave Min Leads 11 Members of Congress in Letter to DHS Inspector General* (Jul. 18, 2025), <https://min.house.gov/media/press-releases/representative-dave-min-leads-11-members-congress-letter-dhs-inspector-general>

² *Letter from Joseph V. Cuffari, Inspector Gen., Dep't of Homeland Sec. Office of Inspector Gen., to Rep. Dave Min* (Sept. 15, 2025) (responding to Jul. 18, 2025 letter) (on file with Rep. Min's office).

³ See U.S. Const. art. I, §§ 1, 8; § 9, cl. 7; See *McGrain v. Daugherty*, 273 U.S. 135, 174 (1927) ("[T]he power of inquiry—with process to enforce it—is an essential and appropriate auxiliary to the legislative function.").

⁴ TIME Staff, *The 'Big Beautiful Bill' Would Pour Billions Into ICE's Budget*, TIME.COM (Jul. 2, 2025), <https://time.com/7299360/big-beautiful-bill-trump-ice-immigration/>.

Portland, the City Attorney, Robert Taylor, asserted in recent court filings that federal agents used unjustified force against peaceful protesters, indiscriminately fired impact munitions to disperse crowds, and discharged pepper spray into peaceful demonstrators' faces.⁵ In Chicago, as part of "Operation Midway Blitz", ICE or CBP agents reportedly rappelled from Black Hawk helicopters to raid an apartment complex, body-slammed and tear-gassed protesters, and indiscriminately detained individuals, including U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents.⁶ We have also seen videos of ICE and CBP agents assaulting non-violent bystanders, spraying what has been described as mace at people who do not appear to pose any risk of violence or harm, and other instances of outrageous and unlawful behavior.⁷ These disturbing incidents coincide with recent reporting that ICE has rushed to place new recruits into enforcement roles without completing standardized training or full background vetting.⁸ Some of these recruits have even "failed drug testing, have disqualifying criminal backgrounds[,] or don't meet the physical or academic requirements to serve."⁹ It would be a dereliction of duty if you deployed inadequately trained or unvetted personnel into high-risk operations across the United States, concerns we raised back in our original July 18, 2025 letter.¹⁰

Taken together, these incidents suggest that DHS and its components are carrying out what amounts to militarized operations on U.S. soil, targeting vulnerable communities. Occurring alongside ICE's unprecedented workforce expansion, these actions raise serious

⁵ Press Release, *City of Portland, Portland Says Federal Government Used Excessive Force Against Peaceful Protesters* (Oct. 6, 2025), <https://www.portland.gov/federal/news/2025/10/6/portland-says-federal-government-used-excessive-force-against-peaceful>; Gosia Wozniacka, *Federal agents knock down elderly couple during Portland protest*, OREGON LIVE (Oct. 4, 2025), <https://www.oregonlive.com/politics/2025/10/federal-agents-knock-down-elderly-couple-during-portland-protest.html>; Troy Brynson and Erik Neumann, *Hundreds protest at ICE building after Trump's announcement of troop deployment to Portland*, OPB.ORG (Sept. 28, 2025), <https://www.opb.org/article/2025/09/28/hundreds-protest-portland-ice-trump-deployment/>; Jonathan Bach, *Federal officer blasts chemical spray into vocal but nonviolent Portland protester; video shows*, OREGON LIVE (Oct. 3, 2025), <https://www.oregonlive.com/crime/2025/10/federal-officer-blasts-chemical-spray-into-vocal-but-nonviolent-portland-protester-video-shows.html>.

⁶ Hameed Aleazizi and Julie Bosman, *Trump Administration Says It Has Begun Immigration Crackdown in Chicago*, NY TIMES (Sept. 8, 2025), <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/09/08/us/chicago-immigration-crackdown-trump-administration.html>; Billal Rahman, *ICE Agents Rappel From Black Hawk Helicopters Into Chicago for Major Raid*, NEWSWEEK (Oct. 1, 2025), <https://www.newsweek.com/ice-rappel-black-hawk-helicopters-chicago-10809228>; Siri Chilukuri, *Body slamming, teargas and pepper balls: viral videos show Ice using extreme force in Chicago*, THE GUARDIAN (Oct. 4, 2025), <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/oct/04/ice-chicago-extreme-force-protesters-journalists>; William Brangham and Ryan Connelly Holmes, *ICE escalates aggressive raids in Chicago as Trump moves to deploy National Guard*, PBS.ORG (Oct. 9, 2025), <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/ice-escalates-aggressive-raids-in-chicago-as-trump-moves-to-deploy-national-guard>.

⁷ Michelle Gallardo, Maher Kawash, Cate Cauquiran, and ABC7, *Federal agents detain multiple people downtown; anti-ICE protests held in Chicago, Broadview*, ABC7 CHICAGO (Sept. 28, 2025), <https://abc7chicago.com/post/ice-chicago-today-federal-immigration-agents-border-patrol-boat-seen-downtown-live/17899424/>.

⁸ Julia Ainsley and Didi Martinez, *Some new ICE recruits have shown up to training without full vetting*, NBC NEWS (Oct. 22, 2025), <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/immigration/new-ice-recruits-showed-training-full-vetting-rcna238739>.

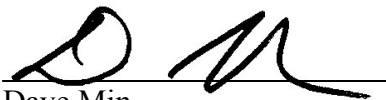
⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁰ Press Release, *Rep. Dave Min, Representative Dave Min Leads 11 Members of Congress in Letter to DHS Inspector General* (Jul. 18, 2025), <https://min.house.gov/media/press-releases/representative-dave-min-leads-11-members-congress-letter-dhs-inspector-general>

questions about your Department's command oversight, adherence to constitutional safeguards, and compliance with federal civil and criminal rights protections. We need look no further than the growing number of lawsuits brought against your Department and its agents for "extreme brutality" against protesters and members of the press.¹¹ Indeed, these abuses have already prompted a federal judge to order federal immigration officers operating in Chicago to wear body cameras.¹²

Your Department's continued silence only deepens public concern that these abuses are being condoned from the top. Therefore, we demand that you respond, as required by the Constitution, to the 23 questions we posed in our July 18, 2025, correspondence no later than **November 10, 2025**, so that Congress and the American public can understand how you intend to prevent any future abuses from occurring.¹³

Sincerely,



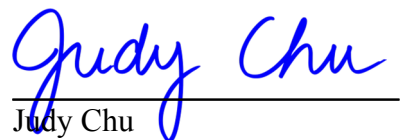
Dave Min
Member of Congress



Dan Goldman
Member of Congress



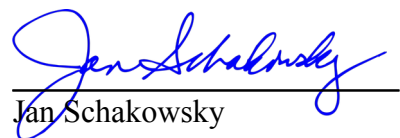
Bradley Scott Schneider
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress

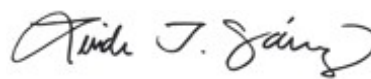
¹¹ Faith Wardwell, *Chicago journalists, protesters sue Trump administration, alleging 'extreme brutality'*, POLITICO (Oct. 7, 2025), <https://www.politico.com/news/2025/10/07/chicago-protests-lawsuit-journalists-00596425>.

¹² Christine Fernando, *Federal immigration officers in Chicago area will be required to wear body cameras, judge says*, POLITICO (Oct. 16, 2025), <https://apnews.com/article/chicago-immigration-crackdown-judge-d5414dffb9380f95211c2c18d653d2>.

¹³ See U.S. Const. art. I, §§ 1, 8; § 9, cl. 7; See *McGrain*, 273 U.S. at 174.



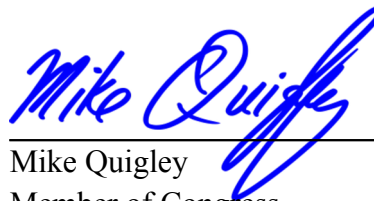
Kevin Mullin
Member of Congress



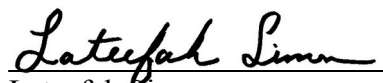
Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress



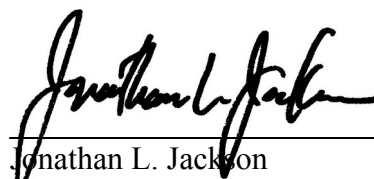
Derek T. Tran
Member of Congress



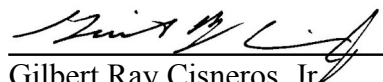
Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



Lateefah Simon
Member of Congress



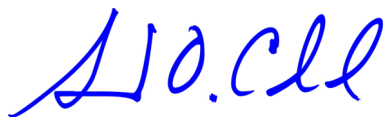
Jonathan L. Jackson
Member of Congress



Gilbert Ray Cisneros, Jr.
Member of Congress



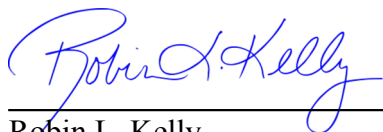
Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



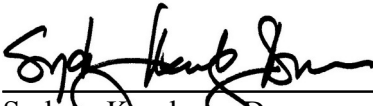
Sean Casten
Member of Congress



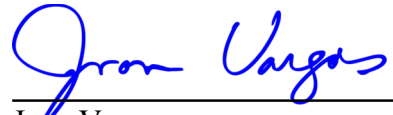
Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress



J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress



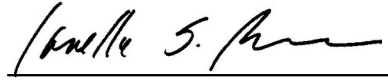
Sydney Kamlager Dove
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



Luz M. Rivas
Member of Congress



Janelle S. Bynum
Member of Congress