

January 12, 2026

Via Electronic Delivery

The Honorable Chuck Grassley  
Chair, Committee on the Judiciary  
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Andrew Garbarino  
Chair, Committee on Homeland Security  
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Jim Jordan  
Chair, Committee on the Judiciary  
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Susan Collins  
Chair, Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Rand Paul  
Chair, Committee Homeland Security  
& Governmental Affairs  
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chair, Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives

**Re: Demand for emergency investigations into the use of force by federal immigration enforcement personnel and a limitation on future spending without meaningful reform**

To the House and Senate Judiciary Committees, the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, the House Homeland Security Committee, and the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs:

In the span of less than 30 hours this week, immigration enforcement officers shot three different people, killing a 37-year-old U.S. citizen, who had just dropped her child off at school. These shootings are devastating tragedies and a warning sign of a much deeper crisis in our democracy. Congress must act decisively and without delay to demand accountability and justice for the American people and to turn our country away from its ever-increasing reliance on a militarized federal police force.

As civil society organizations committed to the Constitution and the rule of law, we were dismayed to, again, be forced to condemn state violence and grieve the unnecessary loss of life under a common set of circumstances: people in cars being shot by federal law enforcement. On January 7, 2026, Renee Nicole Good, a mother of three and a trained legal observer, was shot and killed in Minneapolis when an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agent fired into her vehicle. Immediately following the shooting, Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security Kristi Noem sought to portray Ms. Good as a domestic terrorist who attempted to use her car as a weapon.<sup>1</sup> This characterization

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<sup>1</sup> Koch, A. (2026, January 7). *Noem condemns alleged attack on ICE agents stuck in snow in Minneapolis as 'act of domestic terrorism'*. Fox News. <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/noem-condemns-alleged-attack-ice-agents-stuck-snow-minneapolis-act-domestic-terrorism>

was almost as quickly contradicted by bystanders' video recordings of the shooting and ICE's subsequent refusal to allow a physician to administer medical care.<sup>2</sup>

The next day, on January 8, 2026, federal Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) agents shot Luis David Nico Moncada and Yorlenys Betzabeth Zambrano-Contreras, a married couple, during a traffic stop in Portland, Oregon. The extent of their injuries is unknown currently, but they are believed to have survived the encounter. In a post on social media, the Department of Homeland Security described the couple as being affiliated with the “vicious Venezuelan gang Tren de Aragua,” but has produced no evidence to support that claim.<sup>3</sup> As is the pattern, the driver was claimed to have “weaponized” his vehicle prior to the shooting.<sup>4</sup> This marks the tenth time in the last four months that federal immigration enforcement personnel have fired on people in their cars. Two people are dead. Enough is enough.

The rule of law depends not on the use of force, but on restraint, discipline, and accountability. The American public deserves no less, but that is not what they are getting. Over the past year, the administration has dramatically expanded ICE's budget, scale, and authority, including through a historic infusion of funding that dwarfs spending on many other federal law-enforcement and accountability institutions.<sup>5</sup> That funding has been paired with aggressive “wartime” recruitment tactics that explicitly target military and gun-culture communities and glorify a combat-oriented, us-versus-them mentality.<sup>6</sup> This shift away from civil law enforcement and toward militarization has coincided with actions taken by the Department of Justice and the FBI that have weakened the safeguards designed to ensure prosecutorial independence, fact-based investigations, and transparency.

Congress cannot disclaim responsibility for this crisis. Through the recent reconciliation bill, Congress authorized an unprecedented expansion of funding for ICE and federal immigration enforcement, a level of spending we believe was reckless given the absence of meaningful guardrails, oversight, or accountability mechanisms. That decision has now been made. But having appropriated these funds, Congress cannot simply throw up its hands and allow ICE, CBP, and DHS to operate without restraint. On the contrary,

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<sup>2</sup> Inal, K., Looft, C., Kofsky, J., & Margolin, J. (2026, January 8). *Minneapolis ICE shooting: A minute-by-minute timeline of how Renee Nicole Good died*. ABC News. <https://abcnews.go.com/US/minneapolis-ice-shooting-minute-minute-timeline-renee-nicole/story?id=129021809>

<sup>3</sup> Department of Homeland Security [DHSgov]. (2026, January 8). *At 2:19 PST, US Border Patrol agents were conducting a targeted vehicle stop in Portland, Oregon...* [Tweet]. X. <https://x.com/DHSgov/status/xxxxxxx>

<sup>4</sup> Id.

<sup>5</sup> Kanno-Youngs, Z., Aleziz, H. (2025, July 12). *ICE set to vastly expand its reach with new funds*. The New York Times. <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/07/12/us/politics/ice-expansion-concerns.html>

<sup>6</sup> Harwell, D. & Sohyun Lee, J. (2025, December 31). *ICE plans \$100 million 'wartime recruitment' push targeting gun shows, military fans for hires*. The Washington Post. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/technology/2025/12/31/ice-wartime-recruitment-push/>

Congress now has an even greater constitutional obligation to ensure that taxpayer dollars are not being used to violate civil and constitutional rights.

The House and Senate Judiciary Committees, the Appropriations Committees, the House Homeland Security Committee, and the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs must immediately investigate and hold emergency oversight hearings to question DHS, ICE, and CBP leadership about their use-of-force policies, training, rules of engagement, supervision, and post-incident review practices. And Congress must make clear that there will be no further appropriations for immigration enforcement unless and until meaningful reforms are enacted to prevent further loss of life.

This is not a symbolic exercise. It is a test of whether federal power will be governed by law or excused by repetition. If Congress fails to act, it sends the message that a badge alone excuses deadly force, a notion that runs against our Constitution and the American promise that no one stands above the law.



Juan Proaño  
Chief Executive Officer  
League of United Latino American Citizens



Virginia Kase Solomón  
President & Chief Executive Officer  
Common Cause



Celina Stewart  
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League of Women of Voters of the US



cc:

The Honorable Dick Durbin  
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary  
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Jamie Raskin  
Ranking, Committee on the Judiciary  
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Gary Peters  
Ranking Member, Committee Homeland Security  
& Governmental Affairs  
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Bennie Thompson  
Ranking Member, Committee on Homeland Security  
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Vice Chair, Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Rose DeLauro  
Ranking Member, Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives