



February 9, 2026

The Honorable John Thune
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate

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

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

The Honorable Katie Britt
Chair, Appropriations Subcommittee on
Homeland Security
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Chris Murphy
Ranking Member, Appropriations
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
U.S. Senate

Re: Our Members Demand DHS Funding Conditioned on Accountability, Oversight, and Immediate Reform

Dear Majority Leader Thune, Minority Leader Schumer, Chair Collins, Vice Chair Murray, Chair Britt, and Ranking Member Murphy:

We write as national, membership-based organizations representing millions of Americans in every state and across every congressional district. Our members are demanding urgent action from Congress in response to the escalating violence, lawlessness, and lack of accountability within the Department of Homeland Security and its immigration enforcement agencies.

In 2026 alone, federal immigration enforcement killed two U.S. citizens, Renée Nicole Good and Alex Pretti. In 2025, 49 deaths occurred in detention facilities. These deaths are not isolated or unpreventable incidents. They are the foreseeable result of a system that has been allowed to expand rapidly without guardrails, oversight, or accountability. The U.S. Constitution protects all people, including immigrants, and they deserve due process and equal protection under the law. That has not been happening, as DHS officers continue to harass and escalate in Black and Brown communities from California to Maine.



Our members have been clear: Congress must act now.

We are writing in the immediate context of negotiations over DHS funding. While the decision to strip the DHS bill from the broader appropriations package and avoid a shutdown is a critical interim step, it does not change the substance of the required action. The two-week extension must be used to secure real, enforceable reforms. Anything less—such as vacuous commitments for DHS to simply follow the law—would be unacceptable.

Our members are calling on us, and we are calling on you, to ensure that no additional funding for DHS or ICE is approved unless the following conditions are met:

- A nationwide moratorium on ICE surge operations in communities, not limited to Minnesota.
- Full and unconditional cooperation by DHS and DOJ with independent investigations into the killings of Renée Nicole Good and Alex Pretti and other violations of civil rights and law.
- Resignation or removal of Secretary Kristi Noem.
- Comprehensive systemic and structural reforms that bring immediate and enforceable restrictions and accountability to DHS, such as requiring officers to turn on available body-worn cameras during enforcement operations and ensure all surveillance footage is controlled by an independent entity and is publicly accessible; prohibit masks; and require clearly visible identification by officers. (See, e.g., Civil rights legacy organizations' letter to Senate Minority Leader Charles Schumer (Jan. 29, 2026)).

These are not radical demands. They are common-sense requirements rooted in constitutional principles, basic public safety, and the rule of law. Congress has both the authority and the responsibility to impose them.

Our members have already made their voices heard, and they will continue to do so. We will continue to facilitate direct advocacy with your offices throughout this negotiation period and beyond. This is our role as membership organizations, and this is what the moment requires.



This should not take two weeks. The facts are known. The pattern is clear. Congress can and must act immediately to rein in an agency that has become dangerously deadly and unaccountable. We stand ready to engage constructively in support of a DHS funding bill that meets these standards and restores public trust.

The American people are watching. Our members are watching. And they expect leadership.

Signed,

Virginia Kase Solomón
President & CEO
Common Cause

Juan Proaño
CEO
League of United Latin American Citizens

Marc H. Morial
President & CEO
National Urban League

Derrick Johnson
President & CEO
NAACP

Melanie L. Campbell
President & CEO
National Coalition on Black Civic Participation