

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

September 1, 2026

VIA EMAIL

The Honorable Markwayne Mullin
Secretary of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave SE
Washington, DC 20528

Mr. David J. Venturella
Acting Director
Immigration and Customs Enforcement
500 12th St. SW
Washington, DC 20536

Dear Secretary Mullin and Acting Director Venturella:

Over the past week, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (“ICE”) agents have sown fear and panic among parents, children, and workers as they detained scores of people in Danbury and other towns in Connecticut. What should have been a time of excitement and community as children in Connecticut return to school has quickly turned into a time of genuine terror. In just a few days, individuals in Connecticut have been apprehended by masked agents in locations that children frequent such as parks, near an elementary school, and outside a daycare center in Danbury.¹ In one instance, an ICE agent detained a father who walked his child to a bus stop.² In another, ICE agents threatened to pepper spray a man detained in front of a preschool.³ ICE’s actions in Connecticut showcased cruelty and brutality, as well as disregard for the safety and well-being of community members, especially children. They fostered an environment of fear that will undoubtedly impact school attendance rates and the emotional health of students, generally.

To date, reports indicate nearly 100 individuals have been arrested⁴ but there are likely significantly more—many likely have legal status and no apparent serious criminal history. However, ICE has not released any information about them.⁵ National trends indicate that ICE has arrested more immigrants *without a criminal conviction* this summer than at any other point

¹ Ryan J. Foley & Russ Bynum, *ICE Operation in Connecticut Highlights How Arrests are Rising Even in Blue States*, AP NEWS, (Aug. 27, 2026), <https://apnews.com/article/dhs-ice-connecticut-danbury-arrests-immigration-d8695bbb883591669acc266e8bb6a9>.

² *Id.*

³ Joshua Eaton, *ICE Reportedly Arrested Nearly 100 People Across Connecticut This Week: What We Know and Don’t Know*, CT INSIDER, (Aug. 29, 2026), <https://www.ctinsider.com/news/article/ice-arrests-danbury-bridgeport-22408246.php>.

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ *Id.*

since President Trump returned to office.⁶ There is no reason to believe Connecticut is an exception. Indeed, nationwide reporting indicates that this surge in enforcement in Connecticut follows similar increases in ICE enforcement across the country, which have led to the arrests of 49,000 individuals in July alone.⁷ Analysis of recent ICE arrests demonstrates that, in 10 states, “arrests of people who don’t have criminal records increased by 50 percent between last year and this year.”⁸

The Trump Administration committed to arresting “the worst of the worst,” but the facts show just the opposite. The senselessness of ICE’s recent surge in enforcement activity is compounded by ICE’s troubling track record of excessive use of force and unlawful behavior. Despite a change in leadership at the Department of Homeland Security (“DHS”) and at ICE, tragedy continues to follow surges in ICE enforcement, as evidenced by recent and tragic killings in Texas and Maine.⁹

The Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations has investigated abuses by DHS immigration officials for well over a year.¹⁰ The Subcommittee has documented unlawful and egregious actions by ICE including the detention of United States citizens;¹¹ deployment of tear gas and pepper spray against children;¹² 128 children injured, left unattended, or otherwise put in direct risk of harm;¹³ and extreme use of physical force such as using a battering ram to knock down a door while children were present inside a home.¹⁴ As ICE continues to acquire dangerous equipment and technology, such as electric shock gloves that act as hand tasers,¹⁵ I am deeply

⁶ Albert Sun & Allison McCann, *ICE Arrests Soar as People With No Criminal Record Are Increasingly Targeted*, N.Y. TIMES, (Aug. 27, 2026), <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2026/08/27/us/ice-immigrant-arrests-trump-deportation-dhs.html>.

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ David Nakamura & Emmanuel Martinez, *How ICE is arresting soaring numbers of immigrants with no criminal record*, WASH. POST, (Aug. 28, 2026), <https://www.washingtonpost.com/immigration/2026/08/28/how-ice-arrests-immigrants-with-no-criminal-record-are-soaring-under-trump/>.

⁹ Letter from Sen. Blumenthal to Secretary Mullin (July 16, 2026), <https://www.hsgac.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026.07.16-Blumenthal-and-Garcia-to-Mullin-1.pdf>.

¹⁰ Letter from Sen. Blumenthal to Acting Director Todd Lyons, (Aug. 26, 2026), <https://www.hsgac.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025-08-26-Letter-from-Sen.-Blumenthal-to-ICE.pdf>.

¹¹ See S. Minority Staff of S. Permanent Subcomm. on Investigations, 119th Cong., *Unchecked Authority: Examining the Trump Administration’s Extrajudicial Immigration Detentions of U.S. Citizens* (Dec. 9, 2025), https://www.hsgac.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025.12.8_ICE-Report-revised-FINAL.pdf

¹² See S. Minority Staff of S. Permanent Subcomm. on Investigations and H. Minority Staff of H. Comm on Oversight and Gov. Reform, 119th Cong., *Cruelty is the Point: How Trump’s Immigration Agenda Endangers Children* (2026), <https://www.hsgac.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/03-24-2026-PSIOversight-Report-re.-DHS-Harm-to-Children.pdf>.

¹³ *Id.*

¹⁴ Testimony of Teyana Gibson Brown, Public Forum: Our Values at Stake (Part III): Terrorizing communities without warrants and no restraint, 119th Cong., (Feb. 23, 2026), https://www.blumenthal.senate.gov/newsroom/press/release/blumenthal-and-robert-garcia-receive-testimony-about-ice-abuses-from-whistleblower-us-citizen-whose-rights-were-violated_former-top-lawyer-at-dhs.

¹⁵ Letter from Sens. Blumenthal, Booker, and Padilla to Secretary Mullin and Acting Director Venturella, (Aug 27, 2026), https://www.booker.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/final-booker_letter_to_dhs_ice_re_shock_glovespdf.pdf.

alarmed at the possibility of a future scenario in which such equipment is deployed to cause further harm.

As the deployment of ICE agents to America's communities continues to surge and place community members at risk, including deployments similar to those seen in Connecticut, I demand answers to the following requests for information by September 11, 2026:

1. Does the Department of Homeland Security and/or the White House currently have a quota system in place for daily or monthly arrests of immigrants that must be met?
 - a. If so, what is that quota?
2. Please list the individuals detained in Connecticut disaggregated by name, age, criminal conviction, if any; applicable warrant, if any; and location of arrest;
3. Please indicate whether any detained individuals in Connecticut were U.S. Citizens or held any other legal status;
4. Please indicate whether any detained individuals in Connecticut were injured during the course of ICE's operations;
 - a. If so, list the injury and the geographical location where the injury was sustained.
5. Has DHS or ICE received any complaints, formal or otherwise, against ICE agents for use of force during operations in Connecticut or in any other state since January 1, 2026?
 - a. If so, please provide documentation for each complaint, including the date, location, agent name, DHS component, and allegations against the agent; the process DHS took to impartially review each complaint; and any disciplinary action taken in response to such complaint.
6. Please indicate whether ICE agents involved in operations in Connecticut are wearing and operating body worn cameras during the entirety of their actions apprehending and taking into custody Connecticut residents;
7. Please indicate whether ICE agents involved in operations nationwide are wearing and using body worn cameras during the entirety of their operations;
8. Please indicate how ICE is identifying and targeting individuals for arrest in Connecticut.

I further request that you send a representative to meet with me and respond to these questions and others in my Hartford office sometime this week, or by September 11, 2026. Please contact the Subcommittee should you have any questions about responding to these requests.

The Hon. Markwayne Mullin
Mr. David J. Venturella
September 1, 2026
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Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Richard Blumenthal", is written over the printed name.

Richard Blumenthal
Ranking Member
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

cc: The Honorable Ron Johnson
Chairman
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations