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United States Senate

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

January 28, 2026

The Honorable Kristi Noem
Secretary
Department of Homeland Security
245 Murray Lane SW
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Noem:

We call on you to appear before the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs (HSGAC) without delay to testify regarding actions by federal officials under your control that resulted in the deaths of two U.S. citizens within the last month.

As you know, HSGAC Chairman Rand Paul has now called for the leaders of three components in your Department to testify before this Committee.¹ We are encouraged by Chairman Paul's steps to hold this oversight hearing, as Democratic Members of this Committee recently called on him to do.² However, as Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), you are ultimately responsible for the Department's actions. You have presided over an increasingly dangerous and untenable breakdown in trust in federal law enforcement across the country, and your actions in the wake of these tragedies have weakened the Department's credibility, inflamed tensions, harmed public safety, and divided Americans.

DHS is charged with responsibly enforcing our immigration laws and federal law enforcement officers, just like any other law enforcement officers, need to carry out their responsibilities in a way that protects themselves as well as the public. We have long supported responsible enforcement of these laws. However, what we are witnessing on the streets of Minneapolis and other cities around the country is something entirely different. You have

¹ Letters from Sen. Rand Paul, Chairman, Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, to Todd M. Lyons, U.S. Immigration and Enforcement, *et al.* (Jan. 26, 2026) (x.com/SenRandPaul/status/2015868311825785113?s=20).

² Letter from Sen. Gary Peters, Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, *et al.*, to Sen. Rand Paul, Chairman, Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs (Jan. 15, 2026) (hsgac.senate.gov/library/files/committee-democrats-letter-to-chairman-paul/).

authorized actions that have resulted in a vast overreach of the Department's authorities and have cost innocent lives. Masked federal agents from DHS have violently assaulted peaceful protestors, arrested American citizens without cause, undermined protections under the Fourth Amendment, and shot and killed two Americans – Renee Good and Alex Pretti – who, contrary to your own baseless assertions, clearly did not pose a lethal threat.³

Rather than waiting for the facts to emerge and an unbiased investigation to occur, you and other Administration officials labeled Ms. Good and Mr. Pretti domestic terrorists with no evidence, blamed them for their own deaths contrary to multiple videos of the shootings, and prevented state and local officials from legitimate efforts to participate in investigations.⁴ Following inaccurate statements by you and other DHS officials regarding the killing of Mr. Pretti, the Minnesota Department of Corrections released information undercutting DHS's claims and the purported basis for its actions.⁵ The fact that you have doubled down to justify these indefensible killings in the face of widespread public outrage has caused DHS to lose credibility and calls into question your ability to lead this Department and its tens of thousands of federal agents entrusted to ensure public safety and to protect the homeland.

Since your confirmation, you have failed to appear before this Committee for its annual hearing on threats to the homeland – even though you appeared before the House Committee on Homeland Security, and have reportedly agreed to testify before the Senate Judiciary Committee in the coming weeks.⁶ As the Secretary of Homeland Security, you have an obligation to appear before the Senate Committee with jurisdiction over DHS and the security of our homeland, as the urgency of this moment requires. You must answer critical questions about these acts of violence under your watch, including why DHS has failed to ensure that independent investigations of these tragedies will occur. We call on you to make yourself available to testify before this Committee immediately.

³ *Judge orders feds to dial back aggressive response to journalists, protesters in Chicago area*, ABC7 Eyewitness News (Oct. 10, 2025) (abc7chicago.com/post/federal-judge-orders-ice-dhs-agents-dial-back-aggressive-response-journalists-protesters-chicago-area/17972763/); *'There's no due process': ICU nurse, army veteran among U.S. citizens caught in ICE dragnet*, CBC News (Nov. 1, 2025) (cbc.ca/news/world/us-citizens-ice-arrests-detentions-9.6960504); *Videos Contradict Trump Administration Account of ICE Shooting in Minneapolis*, New York Times (Jan. 8, 2026) (nytimes.com/video/us/100000010631041/minneapolis-ice-shooting-video.html); *Videos of Alex Pretti shooting by federal agents in Minneapolis contradict Trump official claims*, CNBC (Jan. 25, 2026) (cnbc.com/2026/01/25/alex-pretti-minneapolis-shooting-videos-trump.html).

⁴ *Renee Good was shot in the head, autopsy commissioned by her family finds*, NBC News (Jan. 21, 2026) (nbcnews.com/news/us-news/renee-good-was-shot-head-autopsy-commissioned-family-finds-rcna255335); *In Alex Pretti's killing, a sharp contrast between what Trump officials say and what video shows*, CBS News (Jan. 25, 2026) (cbsnews.com/news/alex-pretti-shooting-contrast-official-accounts-videos/); *Once Again, Federal Officials Exclude Minnesota From Investigation of a Fatal Shooting*, New York Times (Jan. 25, 2026) (nytimes.com/2026/01/25/us/federal-exclude-minnesota-shooting-investigations.html).

⁵ Minnesota Department of Corrections, *Minnesota Department of Corrections Statement on Minneapolis Shooting and Federal Claims* (Jan. 24, 2026) (mn.gov/doc/about/news/news-releases/?id=1089-720842).

⁶ House Committee on Homeland Security, *Worldwide Threats to the Homeland*, 119th Cong. (Dec. 11, 2025); Bill Melugin, X (Jan. 26, 2026) (x.com/BillMelugin/_status/2015887289956626727).

In addition to the need for you to appear before this committee, this letter also serves as notice for DHS to preserve all records related to the shootings of Renee Good and Alex Pretti and all other instances of excessive use of force by federal agents conducting immigration enforcement under this administration. This must include any investigations conducted by DHS or relating to any decisions not to investigate.

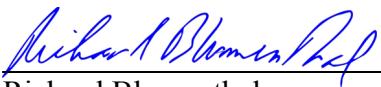
Sincerely,



Gary C. Peters
United States Senator
Ranking Member, Committee
on Homeland Security and
Governmental Affairs



Maggie Hassan
Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator
Ranking Member, Permanent
Subcommittee on
Investigations



John Fetterman
United States Senator



Elissa Slotkin
United States Senator



Ruben Gallego
United States Senator



Andy Kim
United States Senator

cc: Rand Paul
Chairman