

United States Senate

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

November 17, 2025

VIA EMAIL

The Honorable Kristi Noem
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20528-0525

Dear Secretary Noem:

On October 20, 2025, we wrote to you regarding the disturbing and increasingly frequent reports of unconstitutional detentions of U.S. citizens by agents of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP).¹ Among other requests, our letter asked that you provide information on the number of U.S. citizens that have been detained by ICE and CBP during this Administration, and provided a response deadline of November 3.² Your failure to provide any response whatsoever by the stated deadline is troubling and appears to indicate that DHS does not know how many U.S. citizens are being swept up in its reckless immigration enforcement.

Our concern over your failure to respond is compounded by your recent falsehood regarding the detention of U.S. citizens. In an interview on October 30, you stated that “[t]here’s no American citizens that have been arrested or detained. We focus on those that are here illegally. And anything that you would hear or report that would be different than that is simply not true.”³ What is particularly concerning about this false statement is that you were present at an immigration raid in Illinois a month before this interview, where two U.S. citizens were detained.⁴ In addition, multiple news organizations have reported on and spoken with dozens of U.S. citizens who have been detained by federal immigration officials.⁵ New reports of additional U.S. citizen

¹ Letter from the Hon. Richard Blumenthal, Ranking Member, U.S. Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, and Rep. Robert Garcia, Ranking Member, U.S. House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, to Secretary Kristi Noem, Department of Homeland Security (Oct. 20, 2025), <https://www.hsgac.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025-10-20-Letter-from-Blumenthal-and-Garcia-to-Noem.pdf>.

² *Id.*

³ *Noem suggests Chicago immigration blitz includes 5 other states, claims no U.S. citizens detained*, CHICAGO-SUN TIMES (Oct. 30, 2025), <https://chicago.suntimes.com/immigration/2025/10/30/chicago-midway-blitz-noem-trump-immigration-gary-indiana>.

⁴ *2 U.S. citizens among 7 detained at early morning Elgin, Illinois ICE raid*, CBS NEWS (Sept. 18, 2025), <https://www.cbsnews.com/chicago/news/ice-raid-elgin-illinois/>.

⁵ See, e.g., *‘I’m From Here!’: U.S. Citizens Are Ending Up in Trump’s Dragnet*, N.Y. TIMES (Sept. 29, 2025), <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/09/29/us/trump-immigration-agents-us-citizens.html>; *We Found That More Than 170 U.S. Citizens Have Been Held by Immigration Agents. They’ve Been Kicked, Dragged and Detained for Days*, PROPUBLICA (Oct. 16, 2025), <https://www.propublica.org/article/immigration-dhs-american-citizens-arrested-detained-against-will>.

detentions have emerged regularly since ProPublica found on October 16 that more than 170 U.S. citizens had been detained in the Trump Administration's immigration raids.⁶ Given these facts, you will not be able to mislead the American people about the results of the Trump Administration's reckless immigration enforcement efforts.

Your false statement denying that any detentions of U.S. citizens have occurred makes your failure to provide any of the information requested by our inquiry particularly concerning. This failure also goes against your own commitments at the time of your confirmation to work with Congress.⁷ We expect not only a full response to our request, but that DHS begin tracking comprehensive information on how many U.S. citizens it detains—for any period of time and for whatever reason—and provide updates to our committees on a regular basis.

Sincerely,



Richard Blumenthal
Ranking Member
Senate Permanent Subcommittee on
Investigations



Robert Garcia
Ranking Member
House Committee on Oversight and
Government Reform

cc: Todd Lyons
Acting Director
U.S. Immigration and Customs
Enforcement

The Honorable Rodney S. Scott
Commissioner
U.S. Customs and Border Protection

The Honorable Ron Johnson
Chairman
Senate Permanent Subcommittee on
Investigations

The Honorable James Comer
Chairman
House Committee on Oversight and
Government Reform

⁶ See, e.g., *Armed agents drive off with child after detaining her father, a U.S. citizen accused of assault*, L.A. TIMES (Nov. 4, 2025), <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2025-11-04/ice-border-patrol-dodger-stadium-parking-lot>; *In Chicago, a Halloween weekend of immigration arrests and violence*, NPR (Nov. 2, 2025), <https://www.npr.org/2025/11/02/nx-s1-5594866/chicago-evanston-ice-border-patrol-protest-immigration-illinois>; *Federal agents arrest 3 US citizens after crash during immigration operation in Evanston*, ABC 7 CHICAGO (Nov. 1, 2025), <https://abc7chicago.com/post/ice-evanston-today-news-cook-county-officials-speak-federal-immigration-agents-reportedly-area-halloween/18095995/>.

⁷ *WATCH: Kristi Noem testifies at Senate confirmation hearing for DHS secretary*, PBS NEWS (Jan. 17, 2025), <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/watch-live-kristi-noem-testifies-at-senate-confirmation-hearing-for-dhs-secretary>.