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United States Senate

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

January 15, 2026

The Honorable Rand Paul
Chairman
Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Paul:

We call on you, as Chairman of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, to conduct needed oversight of this Administration's immigration enforcement actions. The Department of Homeland Security has deployed an unprecedented number of federal agents throughout the country without appropriate coordination with state and local law enforcement. These federal agents have engaged in numerous operations involving excessive uses of force, including the fatal shooting of an American citizen in Minnesota just last week. The Department, meanwhile, has completely neglected its responsibility to fairly and transparently investigate these federal agents' actions. We urge you to conduct needed oversight of the Department.

The fatal shooting of Renee Good in Minnesota followed numerous other enforcement actions across the country in which federal agents appear to have engaged in the excessive use of force, in some instances, against American citizens engaged in protected First Amendment activity. Federal agents from the Department fired a pepper ball into a pastor's head during peaceful protests in Chicago, broke the ribs of a senior citizen in Los Angeles who was wrongfully detained, arrested an Army veteran and U.S. citizen during an immigration raid in California and jailed him for three days without charges, wrongfully detained a U.S. citizen at his workplace on two separate occasions and continued to hold him after he proved his citizenship, fired tear gas and pepper balls at journalists covering protests, and pulled individuals off the streets and into unmarked vehicles for engaging in lawfully protected speech.¹

¹ *A U.S. veteran spoke out against his wrongful arrest by ICE. Now he's being accused of assault*, Los Angeles Times (Sept. 26, 2025) (www.latimes.com/california/story/2025-09-26/dhs-accuses-veteran-of-assault-after-he-details-his-arrest); *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/); *Baldwin County man says ICE detained him twice despite proof of citizenship*, Alabama Reflector (Oct. 1, 2025) (alabamareflector.com/2025/10/01/baldwin-county-man-says-ice-detained-him-twice-despite-proof-of-citizenship/); *'There's no due process': ICU nurse, army veteran among U.S. citizens caught in ICE dragnet*, CBC News (Nov. 01, 2025) (<https://www.cbc.ca/news/world/us-citizens-ice-arrests-detentions-9.6960504>); *Inside 70 hours of hell for aspiring Marine detained in Bell immigration*

Despite U.S. citizens filing lawsuits and coming forward to share their stories, DHS Secretary Noem refuses to acknowledge that DHS has arrested U.S. citizens. Specifically, she falsely stated that: “There’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.”² Furthermore, this Administration is creating a false narrative by labeling citizens carrying out their First Amendment rights and protesting this Administration’s actions as domestic terrorists. Within an hour of Renee Good’s death in Minnesota, DHS and other Administration officials called the victim a domestic terrorist and made what appear to be inaccurate statements about the events leading to her death. This reflects a complete failure by the Department to fairly and judiciously investigate the shooting of Renee Good and other public safety incidents.

Further, federal agents are conducting community raids while masked, refusing to properly identify themselves and, as a result, are sowing widespread fear in our communities. In fact, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) felt the need to urge agents to identify themselves as law enforcement officers and to cooperate with individuals who request further verification in light of criminals posing as U.S. immigration officers that have carried out robberies, kidnappings, and sexual assaults in several states.³ Moreover, recent analysis found that, in the first ten months of President Trump’s second term, 93% of immigrants arrested in major ICE operations had no violent criminal convictions.⁴ In order to conduct community raids across the country, DHS has diverted essential resources away from other critical homeland security missions, including investigating sex crimes against children and terrorist financing.⁵

HSGAC is the U.S. Senate’s chief oversight committee and has jurisdiction over DHS. This committee has a strong tradition under Republican and Democratic leadership of holding the Executive Branch accountable to the law and to the American people. It is our duty to keep Americans safe while providing necessary transparency. We call on you to immediately conduct needed oversight of this Administration, including, if necessary, to issue a subpoena for records and information regarding the Administration’s diversion of resources from critical homeland security missions, as well as the excessive use of force against and arrest of U.S. citizens.

raid, Los Angeles Public Press (Jun. 24, 2025) (<https://lapublicpress.org/2025/06/70-hours-hell-detained-in-bell-immigration-raid/>).

² *Noem suggests Chicago immigration blitz includes 5 other states, claims no U.S. citizens detained*, Chicago Sun Times and WBEZ Chicago (Oct. 30, 2025) (chicago.suntimes.com/immigration/2025/10/30/chicago-midway-blitz-noem-trump-immigration-gary-indiana).

³ *FBI Warns of Criminals Posing as ICE, Urges Agents to ID Themselves*, Wired (Nov. 4, 2025) (www.wired.com/story/fbi-warns-of-criminals-posing-as-ice-urges-agents-to-id-themselves/).

⁴ *Most Immigrants Arrested in City Crackdowns Have No Criminal Record*, New York Times (Dec. 4, 2025) (www.nytimes.com/interactive/2025/12/04/us/ice-arrests-criminal-records-data.html).

⁵ *Homeland Security Missions Falter Amid Focus on Deportations*, New York Times (Nov. 16, 2025) (www.nytimes.com/2025/11/16/us/politics/dhs-agents-reassigned.html).

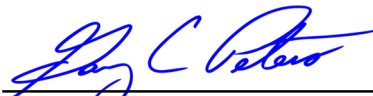
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We also call on you to hold a hearing with Administration officials, including Secretary Kristi Noem, White House Border Czar Tom Homan, ICE Senior Official Performing the Duties of the Director Todd M. Lyons, U.S. Customs and Border Protection Commissioner Rodney S. Scott, U.S. Border Patrol Chief Michael W. Banks, and U.S. Border Patrol Commander Gregory Bovino to explain the Administration's disregard for the law.

Sincerely,



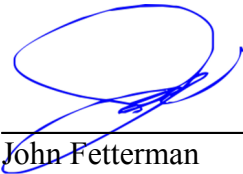
Gary C. Peters
United States Senator
Ranking Member, Committee
on Homeland Security and
Governmental Affairs



Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



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



John Fetterman
United States Senator



Andy Kim
United States Senator



Ruben Gallego
United States Senator



Elissa Slotkin
United States Senator