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Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison
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November 18, 2026

Representative Hakeem Jeffries
Democratic Leader
2267 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Jamie Raskin
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
2242 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Robert Garcia
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
109 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Bennie Thompson
Ranking Member
Committee on Homeland Security
2466 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Senator Chuck Schumer
Democratic Leader
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Sheldon Whitehouse
Committee on the Judiciary
530 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Maggie Hassan
Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs
324 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Immigration Enforcement Reform

Dear Representatives Jeffries, Raskin, Garcia, and Thompson, and Senators Schumer, Whitehouse, and Hassan:

As state Attorneys General, we are sworn to uphold the Constitution and the rights it guarantees. Yet each of us has seen the rights of our constituents violated by agents of the federal government and the devastating harm left in their wake. This cannot continue.

We are encouraged to read that incoming Congress members are proposing investigations into abuses in immigration enforcement, and that they plan to hold hearings on the conduct of immigration agents and those who direct their actions.[1] The recent election results sent a clear

[1] https://www.latimes.com/politics/story/2026-11-09/democrats-set-sights-on-trumps-immigration-crackdown

message: the American people demand accountability for the federal agents who enforce immigration law. Poorly trained federal law enforcement officers operating without identification, wearing masks, racially profiling our neighbors, making unlawful stops and arrests, using excessive force, and disappearing people to unknown locations are anathema to the Constitution and cannot be tolerated in a healthy democracy.

Under this administration, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and its agencies, including Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Customs and Border Protection (CBP), and their officers have operated as if they are exempt from accountability and the rule of law. In 2025, DHS began a months-long campaign of terror across multiple American cities. Since Trump took office for his second term, at least 25 people have been shot at by DHS agents across the United States.[2] In Los Angeles, Chicago, Portland, Newark, and other cities across the country, federal agents have fired tear gas, flash-bang grenades, and pepper balls into crowds of families, neighbors, and journalists.

Use of force by immigration agents has increased dramatically. In just the first three months of the current administration, there was a nearly fourfold increase in reported ICE use-of-force incidents.[3] Independent researchers have subsequently documented more than 400 incidents of misuse of crowd-control weapons in sixteen cities across the country in just one year, resulting in over 200 injuries to demonstrators, bystanders, or journalists attempting to cover the events.[4]

In January 2026 alone, federal agents shot three people in Minneapolis, killing two American citizens. Renee Good, a 37-year-old mother and poet, was shot and killed in her car blocks from her home. Alex Pretti, a 37-year-old ICU nurse, was shot and killed while filming agents on his phone. An ICE agent also shot Julio Sosa-Celis through the front door of his Minneapolis home. Children were inside the home; investigators found a bullet lodged in the wall of a child's bedroom. The ICE agent who shot Mr. Sosa-Celis then lied about being attacked to justify the shooting, according to prosecutors. These shootings have not been adequately investigated by federal authorities for civil rights violations.

This pattern of lawless conduct by DHS officers shows that immediate investigations and sweeping changes are necessary. We do not prejudge what solutions are appropriate. The American people must understand the full scope of DHS officers' abuses to inform new policies and legislation. In creating change, Congress must go beyond mere reform of specific law-enforcement practices. It must also address how federal immigration officers can be held accountable, and personally liable, when they violate the constitutional rights of our residents.

Immigration detention practices are in dire need of reform and oversight as well. By ICE's own accounting, close to 60 people have died in ICE custody in the past two years,[5] enough to make 2025 the deadliest year in immigration detention in over two decades.[6] Many detainees are

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[2] https://www.nytimes.com/2026/07/08/us/immigration-agent-shootings-vehicles.html
[3] https://americanoversight.org/analysis/what-we-know-about-how-ice-is-being-trained-on-the-use-of-force/
[4] https://phr.org/charting-the-crackdown/#findings-people-and-injuries
[5] https://www.ice.gov/detain/detainee-death-reporting
[6] https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/ng-interactive/2026/jan/04/ice-2025-deaths-timeline

being housed in overcrowded, unsanitary facilities. The government's own inspectors have found that immigrants were held in cages in one facility.[7] People have faced medical neglect or have been denied medical care outright. The United States has long prided itself as a nation of laws, but these are the practices of an agency that answers to no one.

DHS and every agency within our government answers to the American people, and consequently to Congress as their representatives. In the face of immigration enforcement conduct that is both immoral and unlawful, the outgoing House and Senate majorities were content to look the other way. The incoming majorities need to confront this head-on. The American people voted for real, serious oversight — with teeth and consequences for any agency or individual who would ignore the rule of law.

As Congress prepares to deliver the changes the American people voted for, we urge you to include testimony from individuals harmed by immigration enforcement overreach, advocates for immigrant communities, and state Attorneys General. Attorneys General can offer insight gathered through our own investigations, litigation, and community engagement. We can also offer valuable perspective because our states have prioritized listening to the people and communities impacted by the administration's lawlessness through truth councils,[8] accountability commissions,[9] and other community engagement.

Advocates for immigrant communities and those affected by federal immigration enforcement can speak firsthand to the consequences on the ground that the administration and lack of oversight by the previous Congress have created — consequences that include grave harms to the safety, livelihoods, and constitutional rights of our communities.

This testimony would be essential to establishing a complete public record — a critical step in both preventing further abuses and holding accountable those who caused and carried out such abuse. The path forward must follow a basic principle: that all immigration enforcement be conducted in accordance with the laws and Constitution of the United States.

The upcoming congressional hearings must further account for corruption and mismanagement within DHS. For example, Congress should investigate waste caused by DHS's rushed and ill-conceived efforts to rapidly expand immigration detention. First DHS spent approximately $1 billion purchasing warehouses in a grossly inhumane effort to house people in them before shifting course. Now DHS has purchased four prisons from CoreCivic, a significant donor to President Trump's inaugural committee and his PACs, for the extraordinary sum of $2.2 billion. DHS paid CoreCivic $495 million for a prison in Minnesota that CoreCivic offered to the State of Minnesota for just $75 million in 2025.[10] Americans deserve to know whether DHS is inflating the purchase price of these facilities and diverting their tax dollars into the coffers of the

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[7] *See* "Unannounced Inspection of ICE's Florida Soft-Sided Facility in Ochopee, Florida," DHS Inspector's General Report OIG-26-22 (September 11, 2026), available at https://www.oig.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/assets/2026-09/OIG-26-22-Sep26.pdf.
[8] https://mn.gov/governor/about-gov/councils/truth-council/
[9] https://ilac.illinois.gov/
[10] https://www.kare11.com/article/news/investigations/kare-11-investigates-private-prison-was-on-sale-for-75-million-ice-paid-495-million/89-4b28b6c7-8823-42b3-9f70-95a78f714e18

President's supporters. We are encouraged that Congress is already taking steps to shed much-needed light on this issue.[11] While Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent recently called an inquiry into the price DHS paid for the Minnesota prison "a waste of our time," we believe it is a proper and important use of Congress's time.[12]

As the chief legal officers of our states, we have sworn oaths to uphold the Constitution—and we recognize no exception to the Constitution for immigration agents. As state Attorneys General, we have done all within our power to seek relief, accountability, and justice for the people in our states who have suffered from the Trump Administration's illegal and unconstitutional strategies. We are encouraged that Congress will soon exercise its own constitutional authorities and critical role in our democracy.

The American people have sent the clear message that they want to bring an end to lawlessness in immigration enforcement. We look forward to working closely with you on meeting their expectations.

Sincerely,

KEITH ELLISON
Attorney General of Minnesota

KRIS K. MAYES
Attorney General of Arizona

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ANNE E. LOPEZ
Attorney General of Hawai'i

[11] https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2026/11/13/democrats-target-costly-dhs-prison-purchase-part-broad-immigration-probes/
[12] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wZeT9FZuLMw

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