



**Office of the New York State  
Attorney General**

**Letitia James  
Attorney General**

January 29, 2026

Attorney General Pamela J. Bondi  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20530

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

Dear Attorney General Bondi and Secretary Noem:

The undersigned Attorneys General write in response to the Department of Justice's January 24, 2026 letter to officials in Minnesota. Your letter does not appear to be a good-faith effort at intergovernmental coordination. Instead, your letter reads as an after-the-fact attempt to justify a highly concerning federal operation, the execution and consequences of which raise serious concerns that are now receiving national attention. The letter makes demands that are without lawful basis and inconsistent with fundamental principles of our federal system. The gravity of this attempted intervention requires a response from all the undersigned as key law enforcement officials in our respective jurisdictions, and as those defending the sovereignty of the States and the rule of law.

The inescapable reality is that the Federal Government is engaging in a dangerous and ongoing assault on the State of Minnesota and its residents. You and other federal officials demand that we ignore the unlawful acts that our eyes clearly see and accept pretextual justifications or outright fabrications instead.

Your letter, penned on the very day federal agents took the life of a second civilian on Minnesota's streets, makes plain the true purpose behind the administration's violent and unlawful assault. It is not to uncover fraud or pursue criminal undocumented immigrants, but rather to terrify the people of Minnesota and coerce the State into abandoning policies and protections it has the sovereign authority to pursue. The Tenth Amendment clearly reserves to the states those powers not delegated to the federal government and requires federal action that accounts for and respects state authority. The letter also may run afoul of numerous court orders issued in lawsuits brought by the undersigned.

Your letter first demands that Minnesota “share all . . . records on Medicaid and Food and Nutrition Service programs, including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program data, with the federal government.” This request would require disclosing, among other things, personal data of thousands of Minnesotans without any factual basis for such an extraordinary request. Many States have already sued over federal demands for SNAP data, *see California v. USDA*, No. 25-cv-06310 (N.D. Cal.), obtained a preliminary injunction against the USDA’s demand, and continue to oppose ongoing demands that still violate the law. The States have also brought claims over the Administration’s plans to share state Medicaid data with immigration enforcement agencies, which has also led to court-ordered protections as to what specific data could be shared. *See California v. HHS*, Case No. 25-cv-5536 (N.D. Cal.). We have also been forced to bring a host of lawsuits to prevent federal agencies from conditioning federal funding on participation in immigration enforcement in ways that exceed the scope of the federal government’s authority—all in spite of courts already rejecting the federal government’s attempted coercion during the first Trump administration. *See California v. U.S. Dep’t of Transp.*, No. 25-CV-208-JJM-PAS, 2025 WL 3072541 (D.R.I. Nov. 4, 2025); *Illinois v. Fed. Emergency Mgmt. Agency*, 801 F. Supp. 3d 75 (D.R.I. 2025); *see also, e.g., City of Providence v. Barr*, 954 F.3d 23 (1st Cir. 2020); *City & County of San Francisco v. Barr*, 965 F.3d 753 (9th Cir. 2020).

Your letter next demands that Minnesota repeal “sanctuary policies” and makes a series of unsupported claims about the policies in place and their effects, with little regard for their accuracy and with disdain for the considered judgments of Minnesota’s elected officials and its law enforcement community. Several States have successfully defended their States’ policy determinations to decline or restrict the use of their limited resources in furtherance of federal immigration enforcement. *See, e.g., United States v. California*, 921 F.3d 865 (9th Cir. 2019); *United States v. Illinois*, 796 F. Supp. 3d 494 (N.D. Ill. 2025); *United States v. New York*, No. 1:25-CV-744 (MAD/PJE), 2025 WL 3205011 (N.D.N.Y. Nov. 17, 2025). Having failed to compel these state and local policy changes in court, you now seek to do so through the threat of continuing this unprecedented deployment of federal agents in Minnesota.

Finally, your letter demands access to voter rolls, which include sensitive information like social security numbers and driver’s license numbers for millions of Minnesotans, based on false rumors the Administration itself has perpetuated that undocumented people are engaging in mass voter fraud. Here, once again, the Administration seeks to obtain through threats and coercion what it cannot do through legal challenges. So far, courts have dismissed the Administration’s attempts to sue States for voter data. *See United States v. Weber*, No. 2:25-cv-09149-DOC-ADS, ECF No. 128 (C.D. Cal. Jan. 15, 2026); *United States v. State of Oregon*, No. 6:25-cv-01666-MTK, ECF No. 68 (D. Or. Jan. 26, 2026). Your letter reveals this administration is attempting through force what it cannot achieve through the courts.

We do not dispute the federal government’s authority to enforce federal immigration law. But that authority cannot extend to commandeering state governments, coercing the repeal of lawful, duly enacted state policies, or demanding broad access to sensitive records based on unsupported assertions.

To be clear, the Administration has offered no actual evidence to back up such massive federal overreaches and intrusions on state sovereignty and individual privacy. And it ignores that it is the

undersigned's governments' prerogative to protect the security of their residents, including by enacting policies designed to protect witnesses and victims of crime, regardless of whether they are citizens, documented immigrants, or undocumented immigrants, and build communities' trust in law enforcement. We will continue to defend this important principle, and we refuse to be intimidated by threats from the Administration. We reject your attempt to justify to the American people the Administration's unlawful actions in Minnesota by creating fear, distrust, and division.

Given the events on the ground in Minnesota, the demands made of Minnesota's elected leaders represent an intolerable threat against each jurisdiction represented by the undersigned, as well as against our democracy. The undersigned stand with Minnesota and its residents. And like Minnesota, we will stand firm in the face of this Administration's illegal efforts to trample over democratic norms, state sovereign authority, the rule of law, and individuals' rights protected by the Constitution.

Sincerely,



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Rob Bonta  
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