

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 13, 2026

The Honorable Markwayne Mullin

Secretary of Homeland Security

Department of Homeland Security

2707 Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue, S.E.

Washington, D.C. 20528

The Honorable Todd Blanche

Acting United States Attorney General

Department of Justice

950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Secretary Mullin and Acting Attorney General Blanche,

We are writing to express our grave concerns regarding public reports of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Department of Justice (DOJ) diverting critical personnel, resources, and operational focus away from core national security and public safety missions such as counterterrorism, transnational crime, and anti-corruption efforts in favor of large-scale civil immigration enforcement. This redirection raises serious questions about whether resources appropriated by Congress are being used to carry out the Departments' core statutory mandates.

These decisions carry significant and potentially deadly consequences. When resources are pulled from counterterrorism, transnational crime, and other core missions, the Departments are knowingly increasing risk to our communities and the public at large. If that risk translates into missed threats or failed enforcement, it will be the result of these misguided policy choices, not a lack of warning.

We have thus far found the justification put forward for these sweeping reallocations—that increased immigration enforcement is necessary to protect our nation from the “worst of the worst”—is not supported by the Department's own data. Public reporting and internal DHS figures consistently show that a large share of individuals arrested or detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) do not have criminal histories, posing no threat to public safety. Recent analysis indicates that nearly 40 percent of those arrested by ICE had no criminal record

at all.¹ Even among those with criminal histories, the overwhelming majority are not violent offenders. Instead of focusing limited federal law enforcement resources on the highest-risk actors, the Departments appear to be directing substantial capacity toward immigration cases. That is not just a change in emphasis, it is a misalignment between stated priorities and actual enforcement.

There is substantial evidence that significant DOJ resources have been diverted from criminal cases in pursuit of civil immigration cases. Recent reporting brought to light the scale of this shift at DOJ. The Department has declined to pursue more than 23,000 criminal cases in the first six months of the second Trump Administration. According to analysis, these cases included 1,300 terrorism-related cases, nearly 5,000 drug cases, and over a thousand white-collar and public corruption cases.² At the same time, DOJ has significantly increased immigration prosecutions, bringing over 32,000 new immigration cases in that same six-month period, nearly triple the number under the Biden Administration.³ DOJ has also reportedly shuttered units, issued directives deprioritizing certain categories of crime, and experienced significant attrition among career prosecutors.⁴ Taken together, these developments suggest not simply a shift in emphasis, but a substantial reallocation of prosecutorial capacity away from core criminal enforcement and toward civil immigration priorities.

This shift is reinforced by a large-scale diversion of federal law enforcement personnel. A January 2025 DHS memorandum titled “DOJ Immigration Officer Authorization” authorized DOJ law enforcement personnel and other employees to investigate, locate, and apprehend noncitizens.⁵ As a result, significant portions of the federal law enforcement workforce have been redirected from their core missions, including, as of August 2025, approximately one in

¹ CBS News, *Less than 14% of those arrested by ICE in Trump's 1st year back in office had violent criminal records, document shows*, <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/ice-arrests-violent-criminal-records-trump-first-year/>

² ProPublica, *Trump's Justice Department Dropped 23,000 Criminal Investigations in Shift to Immigration*, <https://www.propublica.org/article/trump-doj-immigration-bondi-declinations-criminal-investigations>

³ ProPublica, *Trump's Justice Department Dropped 23,000 Criminal Investigations in Shift to Immigration*.

⁴ ProPublica, *Trump's Justice Department Dropped 23,000 Criminal Investigations in Shift to Immigration*.

⁵ U.S. Department of Homeland Security, *DOJ Immigration Officer Authorization*, <https://immpolicytracking.org/policies/dhs-grants-broader-immigration-arrest-powers-to-justice-dept-federal-agents/#/tab-policy-documents>

five U.S. marshals, one in five FBI agents, half of DEA agents, and over two-thirds of the ATF.⁶ These are the very personnel responsible for handling counterterrorism, transnational criminal investigations, narcotics enforcement, weapons trafficking, slowing the gun violence epidemic, and judicial security. Compounding the impacts of these personnel shifts is the fact that many of the individuals being pulled for immigration enforcement support are specialists working on vital counterintelligence topics.⁷ Diverting these specialists risks creating avoidable gaps in the government's ability to detect and disrupt threats, leaving our nation vulnerable. FBI agents have additionally expressed growing concerns about low morale and being stretched thin, which could hamper national security investigations and complex cases.⁸ As for judicial security, staffing shortages due to the reassignment of Marshals has come at a time when the judiciary faces rising threats, with some reporting that hearings have been canceled, rescheduled, or moved to be held virtually due to the shortages.⁹ This raises a fundamental oversight question of whether prosecutorial discretion and resource allocation are being used to advance a specific enforcement priority at the expense of broader statutory responsibilities.

We have similar concerns regarding shifts in personnel and resources at DHS. Available disclosures indicate that, in August 2025, more than 12,000 Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) personnel, over 5,000 Customs and Border Protection (CBP) personnel, and more than 4,000 U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) personnel were diverted to support ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO).¹⁰ Redirecting these personnel and resources to support civil immigration enforcement raises serious concerns about whether DHS is maintaining full operational capacity in domains prioritized and funded by Congress.

At the same time, ICE has expanded significantly, with the number of officers and agents more than doubling from roughly 10,000 to over 22,000, supported by a dramatic increase in overall

⁶ CATO, ICE Has Diverted Over 25,000 Officers from Their Jobs, <https://www.cato.org/blog/ice-has-diverted-over-25000-officers-their-jobs>

⁷ The Bulwark, *The FBI Spent a Generation Relearning How to Catch Spies. Then Came Kash Patel.*, <https://www.thebulwark.com/p/fbi-spent-generation-relearning-catch-spies-kash-patel-counter-intelligence-espionage-tulsi-gabbard-china>

⁸ The Guardian, *Nearly half of FBI agents in major field offices reassigned to immigration enforcement*, <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/oct/09/fbi-agents-reassigned-ice-immigration>

⁹ Bloomberg Law, *US Marshals Deployments Strain Court Resources as Threats Rise*, <https://news.bloomberglaw.com/us-law-week/us-marshals-deployments-strain-court-resources-as-threats-rise>

¹⁰ CATO, ICE Has Diverted Over 25,000 Officers from Their Jobs.

funding.¹¹ Taken together, these changes have positioned ICE among the most heavily resourced federal law enforcement agencies in the country. We are concerned that these decisions reflect not just a shift in emphasis, but a systematic reallocation of national security capacity away from high-risk threats and toward lower-risk civil enforcement activity.

At a time when threats from terrorism, transnational crime, and corruption remain heightened, it is difficult to justify treating civil immigration enforcement as the dominant federal law enforcement priority. These threats, which are made even more acute as a result of the administration's disastrous and illegal war in Iran, require sustained attention, specialized personnel, and long-term investigations.

To ensure transparency and the proper use of taxpayer-funded resources, we request your response to the following questions by August 10, 2026.

- What analysis or decision-making process was used to justify reallocating personnel, funding, and prosecutorial capacity from core law enforcement and national security missions to civil immigration enforcement?
 - Please provide updated information on the current number of HSI, CBP, and USCIS personnel who have been diverted to assist with immigration enforcement.
 - Please provide updated information on the current number of U.S. Marshals, FBI, DEA, and ATF agents who have been diverted to assist with immigration enforcement.
 - Please provide the number of cases declined in each month since the last month of available data (July 2025) listed by relevant categories (terrorism-related, national security, drug cases, and white-collar and public corruption cases).
 - Please provide the number of requests for judicial security—including courthouse security, judicial protective details, threat investigations, and prisoner transport—that have been delayed, reduced, or declined due to personnel or capacity constraints in the past year.

¹¹ DHS, *ICE Announces Historic 120% Manpower Increase, Thanks to Recruitment Campaign that Brought in 12,000 Officers and Agents*, <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2026/01/03/ice-announces-historic-120-manpower-increase-thanks-recruitment-campaign-brought>

- How are DHS and DOJ ensuring that core mission areas, including counterterrorism, transnational crime, narcotics enforcement, public corruption, addressing gun violence, and civil rights enforcement, are being fully executed while resources are being redirected to immigration enforcement?
- What steps are being taken to ensure that these reallocations do not degrade mission readiness in counterterrorism, transnational crime, and other critical enforcement areas?
- What steps, if any, are being taken to restore personnel and resources to core mission areas affected by these reallocations, and what is the timeline for doing so?

Civil immigration enforcement is a lawful responsibility, but it cannot come at the expense of the core functions Congress has funded these Departments to carry out. Redirecting personnel and resources away from those priorities risks leaving higher-threat areas under-resourced and undermining mission readiness. We urge you to provide the requested information and to ensure that the Departments remain fully focused on their core statutory responsibilities.

Sincerely,



Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



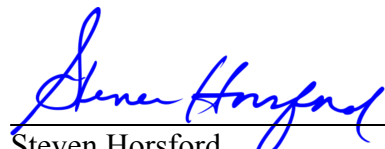
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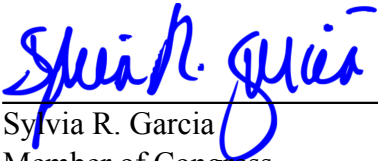
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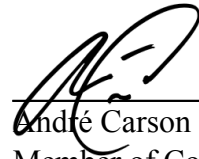
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