



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

February 25, 2026

The Honorable Kristi Noem  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, D.C. 20528

Secretary Noem,

I want to reiterate the content of our meeting on Wednesday, February 25, 2026, at 2:00 pm.

First, I want to restate my position, which I conveyed again in our meeting: I continue to call for your resignation. Your options are limited: you either resign, Trump fires you, or you will be impeached. I urge you to reconsider resignation, because I have taken the first step towards your impeachment, and called on the Judiciary Committee to open an investigation into your lawlessness.

Acknowledging that while your days as a public official are numbered, you currently hold the Office of the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and, as such, you must execute your oath of office and abide by the laws of the United States of America.

As such, today's conversation covered bare minimum actions necessary from your Department to demonstrate any commitment to the rule of law, the separation of powers, and the security of the homeland and its residents. I reiterate those actions below for the record and request follow-up communication.

However, today's meeting happened during a partial government shutdown, which persists because you and the Trump administration refuse to submit to Congressional oversight and accountability and are committed to lawlessness and abuses of power. As such, I will continue to demand we defund ICE, dismantle DHS, and ensure every person who has violated our rights is held accountable.

**(I) POLICY ACTIONS**

**1. Re-establish Protected Areas**

Our churches are sacred, our schools are precious, our hospitals are critical, and our families have the right to feel safe in their communities. However, your agents continue to seed fear into our communities by conducting enforcement activities in and near

sensitive locations. In Chicago, your agents attacked and handcuffed an elected official seeking answers about enforcement activities in a local hospital.<sup>1</sup>

The Department of Homeland Security must reinstate the [2021 Mayorkas memorandum](#) on protected areas.

## 2. Establish and Codify Minimum Use of Force Standards

Under your leadership, rank-and-file DHS agents have continued to use deadly and excessive force in our communities. A traffic violation resulted in the murder of Silverio Villegas González.<sup>2</sup> Marimar Martinez was shot five times by Border Patrol agents after agents rammed her vehicle.<sup>3</sup> The willful enabling of violent and reckless behavior culminated in the public executions of Renee Nicole Good and Alex Pretti in Minneapolis.

From its establishment in the Homeland Security Act of 2002, DHS has operated without a requirement by law to have common-sense Use of Force policies. For more than two decades, your agency has been empowered through a lack of oversight and too much latitude to violate our rights under the pretense of securing our safety. In fact, a Government Accountability Office (GAO) report from 2023 found your agency was underreporting incidents,<sup>4</sup> reinforcing the need for the codification of basic requirements.

I am leading efforts to statutorily mandate DHS's use of force policy through [H.R. 7119](#), the DHS Use of Force Oversight Act, until its passage, the Department of Homeland Security must reinstate [Policy Statement 044-05 \(Revision 01\)](#) or an equivalent policy. A use of force policy is the bare minimum communities deserve and the first step towards accountability.

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<sup>1</sup> WGN9, *Video shows ICE agents handcuffing Chicago alderwoman inside Humboldt Park hospital* (October 3, 2025), <https://wgntv.com/news/operation-midway-blitz/chicago-alderwoman-handcuffed-ice/>

<sup>2</sup> Chicago Reader, *What happened to Silverio Villegas González* (September 15, 2025), <https://chicagoreader.com/news/ice-shooting-silverio-villegas-gonzalez-franklin-park/>

<sup>3</sup> CBS News, *Deadly Minneapolis ICE shooting echoes Franklin Park, Marimar Martinez shootings during Operation Midway Blitz* (January 7, 2026), <https://www.cbsnews.com/chicago/news/minneapolis-ice-shooting-franklin-park-marimar-martinez-operation-midway-blitz/>

<sup>4</sup> GAO, *Law Enforcement: DHS Should Strengthen Use of Force Data Collection and Analysis* (July 24, 2023), <https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-23-105927>

### **3. Respect for the Rule of Law, including Prohibition of Warrantless Arrests and Respect for the 4th Amendment**

Agents in masks,<sup>5</sup> arrests without valid warrants,<sup>6</sup> tampering with license plates during operations<sup>7</sup>, and violations of due process are all tactics that undermine the rule of law and make us all less safe.

The Department of Homeland Security must revoke the Warrantless Home Entry Memo<sup>8</sup> and distribute guidance to DHS agents that affirms the Department's respect for the 4th amendment.<sup>9</sup>

The Department of Homeland Security must respect local laws and regulations, including vehicle registration laws that prevent the swapping or altering of license plates and all local traffic laws.<sup>10</sup>

## **(II) MUTUAL RESPECT BETWEEN COEQUAL BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT**

### **4. Abide by Court Orders**

Your agency has undermined the separation of powers and disregarded the role of Congress and the Courts. U.S. District Judge Jeffrey Cummings ruled that ICE agents must follow a consent decree restricting their ability to arrest noncitizens without warrants or probable cause as a result of the Castañon Nava case.<sup>11</sup> In Chicago, DHS agents used chemical weapons at least four times, despite court orders from District Court Judge Ellis forbidding federal agents from using riot control weapons on November 6th.<sup>12</sup>

The Department of Homeland Security must take the requisite steps to ensure departmental leadership and rank-and-file agents abide by court orders.

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<sup>5</sup> AP, *Masks emerge as symbol of Trump's ICE crackdown and a flashpoint in Congress* (February 9, 2026), <https://apnews.com/article/ice-masks-congress-homeland-security-shutdown-funding-3c5b2050286aab930d8c81eb9cb1e03e>

<sup>6</sup> AP, *Immigration officers assert sweeping power to enter homes without a judge's warrant, memo says* (January 21, 2026), <https://apnews.com/article/ice-arrests-warrants-minneapolis-trump-00d0ab0338e82341fd91b160758aeb2d>

<sup>7</sup> Illinois Office of the Secretary of State, *Giannoulis Cracks Down on Rental Car Companies for Permitting ICE's Swapping or Altering of License Plates* (December 4, 2025),

<https://www.ilsos.gov/news/2025/december-4-2025-giannoulis-cracks-down-on-rental-car-companies-for-permittin-g-ices-swapping-or-altering-of-license-plates.html>

<sup>8</sup> AP, *Immigration officers assert sweeping power to enter homes without a judge's warrant, memo says* (January 21, 2026), <https://apnews.com/article/ice-arrests-warrants-minneapolis-trump-00d0ab0338e82341fd91b160758aeb2d>

<sup>9</sup> *Congress.Gov*, *Fourth Amendment*, <https://constitution.congress.gov/constitution/amendment-4/>

<sup>10</sup> Illinois Office of the Secretary of State, *Giannoulis Cracks Down on Rental Car Companies for Permitting ICE's Swapping or Altering of License Plates* (December 4, 2025),

<https://www.ilsos.gov/news/2025/december-4-2025-giannoulis-cracks-down-on-rental-car-companies-for-permittin-g-ices-swapping-or-altering-of-license-plates.html>

<sup>11</sup> Block Club Chicago, *Federal Judge Rules Against ICE Over Memo That Expanded Power To Make Warrantless Arrests* (February 13, 2026),

<https://blockclubchicago.org/2026/02/13/federal-judge-rules-against-ice-over-memo-that-expanded-power-to-make-warrantless-arrests/>

<sup>12</sup> WTTW, *Federal Judge Imposes Strict Restrictions on Immigration Agents' Use of Force Against Protesters, Media, Clergy*. (November 6, 2025),

<https://news.wttw.com/2025/11/06/federal-judge-says-border-patrol-chief-greg-bovino-lied-about-being-hit-rock-deploying>

## **5. Adhere to Appropriations Approved by Congress**

You have instructed the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to halt disaster aid for long-term projects in lieu of the partial government shutdown, despite having at least \$7 billion available in disaster funds.<sup>13</sup> You have also arbitrarily suspended airport programs and brought them back with no notice and no reason. The reality is your Department is politicizing Congressionally appropriated funding at the expense of our communities' safety and disaster preparedness.

The Department of Homeland Security must cease all transfers or reprogramming of funding from other departments to immigration enforcement operations, including ICE and CBP.

## **(III) DETENTION STANDARDS**

### **6. Adherence to National Detention Standards and Non-Dedicated Intergovernmental Service Agreement Standards**

#### **Personal Belongings**

Based on casework trends monitored by my Office, detained constituents are not consistently receiving their personal documents, personal belongings, or the medication confiscated by DHS.

Per DHS's own detention standards, the Department of Homeland Security must ensure that all 225 active detention centers return the belongings of each individual upon release, even if they are transferred multiple times. When USCIS documentation is not returned upon release from detention, DHS must ensure that constituents can reapply for the replacement of this documentation at no cost to them.

#### **Food and Nutrition**

Based on casework trends monitored by my Office, detained constituents report food shortages at detention facilities. For instance, at the ERO El Paso Camp East Montana facility, constituents have gone up to 18 hours with no meals or water intake. We have also been informed that many constituents in detention who have pre-existing medical conditions are not being provided with adequate meals that meet their dietary needs.

Per DHS's own detention standards, the Department of Homeland Security must ensure adequate meals for constituents and suitable meals for people with special dietary needs.

#### **Medical**

Based on casework trends monitored by my Office, we have received reports of individuals who need medical attention while in detention at Hopkins, ERO El Paso East Camp, Clay County Jail, and Greene County Jail. Medical concerns include severe headaches, stomach aches, flus, and access to medication. My office has submitted

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<sup>13</sup> Politico, *Noem restricts disaster aid over shutdown that targets ICE* (February 22, 2026), [https://www.politico.com/news/2026/02/22/noem-restricts-disaster-aid-ice-budget-shutdown-00792447?utm\\_medium=twitter&utm\\_source=dlvr.it](https://www.politico.com/news/2026/02/22/noem-restricts-disaster-aid-ice-budget-shutdown-00792447?utm_medium=twitter&utm_source=dlvr.it)

requests for immediate medical attention, for medical dosages to be administered as prescribed, for access to breast pumps, and for treatment for the individual.

Per DHS's own detention standards, the Department of Homeland Security must provide emergent, acute, and chronic care; on-site sick call; preventative care; over-the-counter and routine medication products and medical supplies for each individual detained at each DHS detention location. When prescribed medication or other necessary health care service is unavailable, DHS and detention facilities must ensure that all prescribed treatments and medical services are delivered without interruption and that continuity of care is maintained.

The Department of Homeland Security must ensure that all 225 detention centers consistently implement the National Detention Standards to ensure human treatment of all individuals in their care, until such time that we abolish ICE detention.

I look forward to your responses.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Delia C. Ramirez".

Delia C. Ramirez  
Member of Congress