

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

August 31, 2026

The Honorable Markwayne Mullin
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
2800 Nebraska Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20528

Secretary Mullin:

We write with profound alarm and outrage regarding the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) \$16.7 million contract to outfit Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) personnel with electric shock gloves, officially called Generated Low Output Voltage Emitters (G.L.O.V.E.). These devices, designed to inflict severe pain without leaving physical evidence or visible optics, represent a uniquely dangerous tool for unaccountable abuse. We demand the immediate cancellation of this contract and a total ban on the deployment of these abusive devices across all immigration enforcement and detention operations.

The decision to equip civil immigration enforcement agents with electric shock gloves continues a deeply disturbing escalation in the militarization of DHS — as well as sustained efforts to shield itself from accountability.¹ The G.L.O.V.E.s function as ordinary patrol gloves until an officer activates a switch to deliver up to 380 volts of electricity directly to a person's skin. Promotional clips demonstrate that, after a light touch from the G.L.O.V.E., people cry out in pain, lose control of their limbs, and fall to the ground.² The gloves are explicitly marketed for their “low optics,” in which they deliver a painful jolt on direct skin contact but leave no burn marks, scars, or visible evidence. Assistant Chief Adam Glueck of the Cape Girardeau Police Department explained that these are the exact sort of marks that “could look bad to witnesses” or “leave an officer vulnerable to lawsuits.”³ Bob Couey of the Floyd County Sheriff's Department put it more plainly: “I highly recommend these gloves to anybody that's looking for a utility they can use that is conducive to not leading to lawsuits.”⁴ No physical evidence increases the risk of misuse of force, torture, and other ill-treatment and makes it that much harder for victims to sue or achieve some measure of justice — all while administration officials publicly assert that ICE agents carry “absolute immunity” from consequence.⁵

The rollout of these weapons to thousands of field agents across ICE's Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) and Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) contributes to a DHS environment already under widespread scrutiny for state-sanctioned abuse, torture, and arbitrary cruelty.⁶ Human rights organizations have

¹ Associated Press. “ICE pitches legal insurance to help shield local officers who make immigration arrests.” NBC News. August 18, 2026. <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/ice-pitches-legal-insurance-help-shield-local-officers-make-immigratio-rcna593091>.

² Compliant Technologies. “CT106 DRAFT GLOVE Demo – Warehouse.” YouTube. January 22, 2024. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QgzEv8o-Pls>.

³ Sophie Hurwitz. “The Orwellian Company Behind ICE's New Electric Shock Gloves.” Mother Jones. August 15, 2026. <https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2026/08/ice-shock-gloves-torture-compliant-technologies-jeff-niklaus/>.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Associated Press. “JD Vance says ICE agent in Minneapolis shooting has 'absolute immunity'.” YouTube. January 8, 2026. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ts4o1VMLuc>; Fox 9. “DHS shares Stephen Miller clip telling ICE they have 'federal immunity'.” January 14, 2026. <https://www.fox9.com/news/trump-adviser-stephen-miller-tells-ice-have-federal-immunity-when-dealing-protesters>.

⁶ Hibah Ansari. “Inside an ICE Detention Center: Detained People Describe Severe Medical Neglect, Harrowing Conditions.” ACLU. December 17, 2025. <https://www.aclu.org/news/immigrants-rights/inside-an-ice-detention-center-detained-people-describe-severe-medical-neglect-harrowing-conditions>; Human Rights Watch. “‘You're Only Getting Out Deported or Dead’: Abusive US Immigration Detention at Ft. Bliss.” July 15, 2026. <https://www.hrw.org/report/2026/07/15/youre-only-getting-out-deported-or-dead/abusive-us-immigration-detention-at-ft-bliss>; Robert and Ethel Kennedy Human Rights Center. “US subjects unaccompanied immigrant children to cruel and degrading treatment: report to UN Special Rapporteur

long raised concerns about direct contact electric shock devices like the G.L.O.V.E., and the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture listed them as violating the Convention Against Torture.⁷ Amnesty International described the shock gloves as “readily misused for torture” and that the technology is unregulated “despite the clear human rights risks associated with its use.”⁸ The Center for Victims of Torture called the gloves “inherently abusive equipment that facilitates torture” with “no legitimate law enforcement purpose.”⁹ Jenn Rolnick Borchetta, deputy project director on policing at the American Civil Liberties Union, said, “[ICE] will be able to deploy electric shocks with the slight push of a button that maybe nobody else can see them do. Introducing gloves that can so easily be used to deliver terrible pain in encounters is a recipe for harm to the public.”¹⁰ Physicians for Human Rights notes that its “research has documented a concerning pattern of harm associated with ICE’s use of force, underscoring the risks of introducing yet another weapon capable of inflicting pain.”¹¹ A 2024 user manual for the G.L.O.V.E. indicates that it can cause an “increase in blood pressure” and “changes in heart rhythm” and recommends that users avoid shocking “higher risk portions of the population.”¹² G.L.O.V.E. manufacturer Compliant Technologies states that the gloves should be avoided for subduing elderly or disabled people, small children, and pregnant women — all populations that have been frequently subjected to DHS enforcement abuses.¹³

The dangers of these “less-lethal” weapons are not theoretical. Madison County Jail in Kentucky faces a wrongful death lawsuit alleging that a 43-year-old man named Jonathan Mansfield died because corrections officers shocked him 27 times with electric shock gloves and 13 times with a Taser. Two of the glove shocks lasted 45 and 99 seconds; the manufacturer’s recommended limit is 15 seconds. The facility’s own internal investigation concluded the shocks “inflicted unnecessary pain” and “heightened the risk of serious health complications.”¹⁴ Josh Elswick, a man incarcerated in Kentucky’s Bullitt County Jail, sued an employee for shocking him repeatedly with electric shock gloves in 2023 while he was in handcuffs and shackles — despite him pleading with the guard to stop.¹⁵ Bullitt County Jail representatives told local media shortly thereafter that they would stop using the electric shock gloves while they reviewed their policies.¹⁶ A corrections officer at the Laurens County Detention Center in South Carolina was charged with third-degree assault and battery and

on Trafficking in Persons.” January 31, 2026. <https://kennedyhumanrights.org/report/us-subjects-unaccompanied-immigrant-children-to-cruel-and-degrading-treatment-report-to-un-special-rapporteur-on-trafficking-in-persons/>.

⁷ UN Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner. “A/78/324: Thematic study on the global trade in weapons, equipment and devices used by law enforcement and other public authorities that are capable of inflicting torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.” August 24, 2023. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/thematic-reports/a78324-thematic-study-global-trade-weapons-equipment-and-devices-used>.

⁸ Amnesty International. “‘I still can’t sleep at night’: The Global Abuse of Electric Shock Equipment.” March 6, 2025. <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/pol30/8990/2025/en/>.

⁹ Sophie Hurwitz. “The Orwellian Company Behind ICE’s New Electric Shock Gloves.” Mother Jones. August 15, 2026. <https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2026/08/ice-shock-gloves-torture-compliant-technologies-jeff-niklaus/>.

¹⁰ Ryan J. Foley. “AP Exclusive: ICE plans to give officers gloves that can deliver painful electric shocks.” AP News. August 11, 2026. <https://apnews.com/article/ice-electric-shock-gloves-85ff746d3e0ee5f39e7a9a3f1f576252>.

¹¹ Physicians for Human Rights. “This week the Trump administration announced plans...” Instagram. August 15, 2026. https://www.instagram.com/p/DcB48B4IN_a/.

¹² Compliant Technologies. “Gen 4 and Gen 5 G.L.O.V.E. Product User Guide.” November 1, 2024. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1cQ176YYgNI3VXCgLX0ScoihfXyATpfY/view>.

¹³ Doc Louallen. “79-year-old US citizen claims ICE agents body-slammed him at his business, seeks \$50M.” ABC News. <https://abcnews.com/US/79-year-us-citizen-claims-ice-agents-body/story?id=125978834>; Reina Sultan. “Disabled immigrants detained at notorious California facility report abuse and neglect.” Prism. October 21, 2025. <https://prismreports.org/2025/10/21/disabled-immigrants-adelanto-detention/>; Lisa Song, Maya Miller and Melissa Sanchez. “Kids Are Being Harmed by Tear Gas, Pepper Spray Under Trump. There Could Be Long-Term Consequences.” ProPublica. <https://www.propublica.org/article/kids-tear-gas-trump-immigration-crackdown>; Lora Strum. “Pregnant and Postpartum Women Face Neglect and Abuse in ICE Detention.” ACLU. October 27, 2025. <https://www.aclu.org/news/immigrants-rights/pregnant-and-postpartum-women-face-neglect-and-abuse-in-ice-detention>.

¹⁴ Ryan J. Foley. “AP Exclusive: ICE plans to give officers gloves that can deliver painful electric shocks.” AP News. August 11, 2026. <https://apnews.com/article/ice-electric-shock-gloves-85ff746d3e0ee5f39e7a9a3f1f576252>.

¹⁵ WDRB. “Bullitt County Jail discontinues use of electric ‘taser gloves,’ pending policy review.” January 13, 2023. https://www.wdrb.com/news/crime-reports/bullitt-county-jail-discontinues-use-of-electric-taser-gloves-pending-policy-review/article_a2c00e72-9358-11ed-baf0-87345cada0a9.html.

misconduct in 2022 after using the G.L.O.V.E. to repeatedly shock an inmate.¹⁷ Equipping civil immigration enforcement agents with instruments that have already been tied to severe injuries, cardiac distress, and fatal outcomes in local corrections environments is an egregious abuse of public authority and taxpayer funds.

This Administration continues to outfit ICE and CBP with the tools of an occupying paramilitary force—despite widespread human rights violations carried out by its agents during immigration enforcement actions.¹⁸ During the first year of the Administration, DHS committed to spending more than \$144 million on guns, ammunition, and other weapons.¹⁹ The spending commitments also included more than \$30 million for ammunition and more than \$25 million on “less-lethal” weapons and crowd-control devices, including tear gas canisters, pepper sprays, and Tasers. In the final weeks of FY2025 alone, the Administration spent \$12.2 million on rifles, \$11.3 million on Tasers, and \$3.7 million on chemical munitions and “less-lethal” materiel.²⁰ Predictably, the expedited procurement of weaponry resulted in severe misuse and the indiscriminate application of force. A recent report found that ICE and CBP misused crowd-control weapons during protests against the Trump administration’s immigration enforcement operations in 271 verified incidents across 16 U.S. cities from June 2025 to May 2026 — most likely a severe undercount.²¹ The high number of head injuries indicates agents either intentionally or recklessly deployed force towards the head in dangerous and improper ways, resulting in numerous traumatic brain injuries. DHS’ procurement of the GLOVE cannot be separated from this context; it is yet another weapon bought in the million-dollar procurement process for an agency with a history of excessive violence.

Given the serious ethical and policy considerations raised by the procurement and deployment of these weapons, we request written responses to the following questions and requests no later than September 18, 2026:

1. What specific operational data, threat assessments, or incident reports prompted DHS to authorize a multi-million-dollar, no-bid procurement of electric shock gloves? Who approved the purchase and deployment of the gloves? Please include any senior leadership within the Administration.
2. What is the precise intended distribution of these devices, and what criteria determine which personnel receive them? Will every HSI agent and ERO officer be equipped with these gloves? Will DHS personnel, or private contractor employees, be equipped with electric shock gloves in custodial settings, public protests, and/or in immigration enforcement actions, such as arrests, raids, and removal operations (including flights)?
3. What testing has DHS conducted on these gloves? What manufacturer or other testing has DHS reviewed? Please provide all documentation.

¹⁶ Sophie Hurwitz. “The Orwellian Company Behind ICE’s New Electric Shock Gloves.” Mother Jones. August 15, 2026. <https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2026/08/ice-shock-gloves-torture-compliant-technologies-jeff-niklaus/>.

¹⁷ Ted Clifford. “Detention center officers arrested for administering electric shocks, beating inmate, says SLED.” The State. September 9, 2022. <https://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article265516146.html>.

¹⁸ ACLU. “Agents of Chaos and Cruelty: How the Trump Administration’s National Deportation Policing Force Has Attacked American Communities.” July 16, 2026. <https://www.aclu.org/publications/agents-of-chaos-and-cruelty-how-the-trump-administrations-national-deportation-policing-force-has-attacked-american-communities>.

¹⁹ Daniella Silva. “DHS dramatically increased spending to obtain weapons last year, report says.” NBC News. February 19, 2026. <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/ice-spending-dhs-increased-weapons-2026-report-schiff-rcna259388>.

²⁰ Sophie Alexander and Rachel Adams-Heard. “The Military Suppliers Behind Immigration Raids.” Bloomberg. December 11, 2025. <https://www.bloomberg.com/features/2025-military-suppliers-outfitting-ice-immigration/>.

²¹ Physicians for Human Rights. “Widespread Misuse of Crowd-Control Weapons by Law Enforcement at Immigration Enforcement Protests, New Report Finds.” July 13, 2026. <https://phr.org/news/widespread-misuse-of-crowd-control-weapons-by-law-enforcement-at-immigration-enforcement-protests-new-report-finds/>.

4. What training does DHS plan to provide for officers equipped with gloves? Who is responsible for the training? Please provide all training materials officers receive before being provided these weapons.
5. Does DHS plan to establish protocols for using the gloves, and will those protocols include limitations on usage or deployment of the gloves? Please provide all protocols, policies, and written guidance.
6. Given that these gloves are intentionally designed for discreet use to leave minimal physical evidence, what mandatory reporting mechanisms, oversight protocols, and real-time body-worn camera mandates will DHS enforce to prevent officers from using them for punitive measures, retaliation, or against non-threatening individuals? What reporting will be required when the gloves have been deployed? Will masks be prohibited to ensure agents are identifiable at all times to avoid impunity?
7. Has DHS reviewed pending and settled civil lawsuits—including incidents involving fatalities and prolonged, repeated shocking—associated with these weapons?
8. How does DHS reconcile the deployment of these gloves with manufacturer warnings against using them on vulnerable populations, including individuals with cardiac vulnerabilities, pregnant women, and people with disabilities? Will the Department prohibit the use of these gloves on these and other vulnerable populations?
9. Will DHS conduct a comprehensive reevaluation of its core Use of Force Policy, operational training, and deescalation protocols—specifically addressing how activation thresholds, prolonged contact risks, mandatory reporting, and field supervision will be updated to prevent misuse before these devices are deployed? Will the Department make the policies for all agencies public each time they are updated and/or before these weapons are procured and deployed?
10. What is the comprehensive inventory and expenditure profile for all “less-lethal” weapons currently deployed across ICE and CBP (including chemical agents, kinetic impact projectiles, Tasers, and acoustic or directed-energy devices)?
11. What specific protocols, internal investigation standards, and disciplinary frameworks—including mandatory administrative suspensions—does DHS enforce when personnel are accused or found to have misused other pain-compliance devices?
12. How many internal investigations or disciplinary actions have been initiated regarding the misuse of “less-lethal” weapons by ICE and CBP personnel over the past three fiscal years? What steps are being taken to ensure victims have access to legal recourse?

Introducing low-visibility electric shock weapons into our immigration enforcement system is an unacceptable escalation that prioritizes physical intimidation and unaccountable force over human safety and administrative accountability. We reiterate our demand that you immediately halt the acquisition and deployment of electric shock gloves, cancel the contract, and refocus the Department’s resources on accountability and humanitarian standards rather than expanding a paramilitary apparatus.

Sincerely,



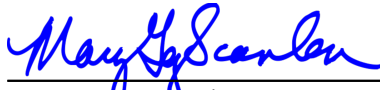
Delia C. Ramirez
Member of Congress



Dan Goldman
Member of Congress



Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress



Analilia Mejia
Member of Congress



Gabe Amo
Member of Congress



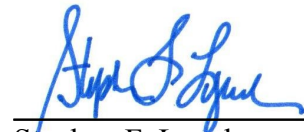
Yassamin Ansari
Member of Congress



Melanie Stansbury
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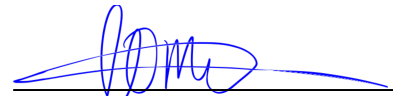
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



Summer L. Lee
Member of Congress



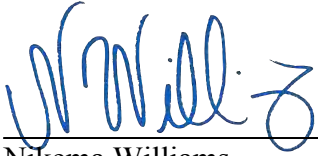
Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress



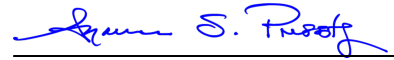
Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



Maxine Waters
Member of Congress



Nikema Williams
Member of Congress



Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



Maxine Dexter, M.D.
Member of Congress



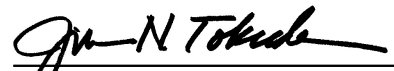
Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress



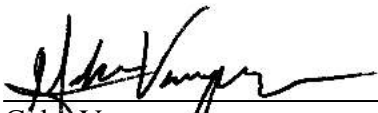
Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress



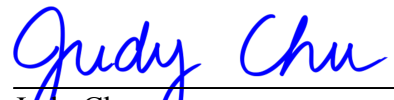
Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



Jim Tokuda
Member of Congress



Gabe Vasquez
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Kevin Mullin
Member of Congress



Jasmine Crockett
Member of Congress



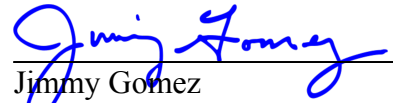
Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



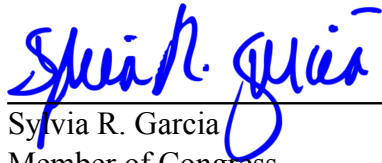
Emily Randall
Member of Congress



Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress



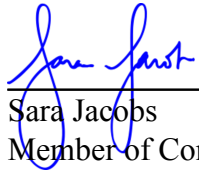
Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress



Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress



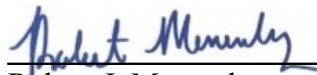
John Garamendi
Member of Congress



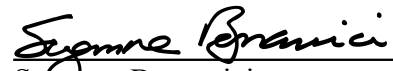
Sara Jacobs
Member of Congress



Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress



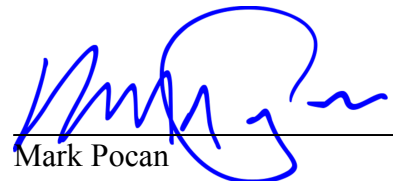
Robert J. Menendez
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Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



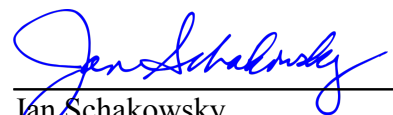
Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



Mark Takano
Member of Congress



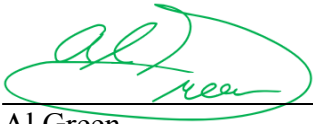
Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



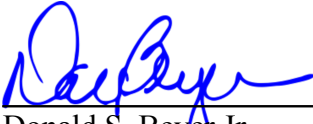
Maxwell Alejandro Frost
Member of Congress



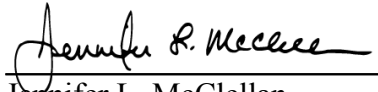
Al Green
Member of Congress



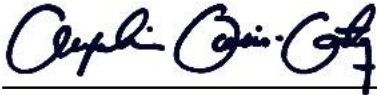
Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



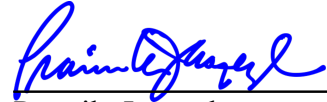
Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



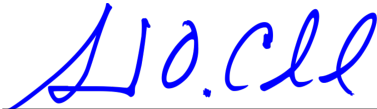
Jennifer L. McClellan
Member of Congress



Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress



Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



Greg Casar
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