

July 3, 2025

The Honorable John Thune
Senate Majority Leader
S-230, United States Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Senate Minority Leader
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
H-232, United States Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
House Minority Leader
2267 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rand Paul
Chairman, Senate Committee on Homeland
Security & Governmental Affairs
340 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC, 20510

The Honorable Gary Peters
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on
Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs
724 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable James Comer
Chairman, House Committee on Oversight
and Government Reform
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Stephen Lynch
Acting Ranking Member, House Committee on
Oversight and Government Reform
2109 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Leader Thune, Leader Schumer, Speaker Johnson, Leader Jeffries, Chairman Paul,
Ranking Member Peters, Chairman Comer, and Acting Ranking Member Lynch:

On behalf of Voto Latino and the undersigned civil society organizations representing interfaith leaders, civil rights leaders and advocates, we write to urgently request that Congress launch an immediate and comprehensive investigation into the actions and leadership of Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem. Her missteps thus far exhibit a pattern of incompetence, disregard for constitutional protections, and conduct placing U.S. citizens and lawful residents in direct danger. Under her stewardship, the actions of her department are eroding fundamental rights.

Secretary Noem's apparent failure to exercise sound judgment and basic discretion has empowered ICE agents to act in ways that undermine constitutional protections and human dignity. Instead of balancing national security with civil liberties, her leadership seems to have encouraged a reckless approach that disregards due process and common sense. Such mismanagement not only compromises the safety of our communities but also betrays the core values upon which this nation stands.

Examples of Rights Violations Under Secretary Noem's Leadership:

1. Restricting Congressional Oversight of ICE Facilities:

Under Secretary Noem, DHS issued new guidelines requiring 72-hour notice—and granting ICE discretion to deny entry—to restrict unannounced visits by lawmakers to ICE field offices. This policy undermines the 2024 Appropriations Act's clear right to oversight. And it has sparked bipartisan condemnation, with lawmakers like Representative Bennie Thompson calling it “unprecedented” and “an affront to the Constitution and Federal law”.¹

2. Use of Force Against a U.S. Senator:

During a June press briefing in Los Angeles, Secretary Noem’s security detail forcefully wrestled California’s Senior United States Senator Alex Padilla to the ground when he attempted to question her. Video footage clearly shows no threat posed by the Senator—just an attempt at congressional inquiry—and many view the action as a blatant misuse of force.²

3. Unlawful ICE Raids Impacting U.S. Citizens:

On June 13, 2025, ICE agents, under Secretary Noem’s direction, raided the home of Sabrina Medina—an American citizen and pregnant mother—accused of harboring a target who wasn’t present. Agents tampered with security cameras, forcibly removing Medina and her children, yet made no arrests.³ And on June 7th, Cary López Alvarado –a U.S. citizen, nine months pregnant –was hospitalized after being shoved, handcuffed, and detained by immigration authorities in California just one week left before her due date.⁴ Unlawful operations like these pose direct threats to citizen safety.

4. Deprivation of Due Process

In March, DHS unlawfully deported Kilmar Armando Abrego Garcia—a Maryland resident and father, legally present in the U.S. under a court-granted withholding of removal order—and sent him to El Salvador’s Terrorism Confinement Center (CECOT) in what the Administration has acknowledged as an “administrative error”.⁵ Rather than immediately return Mr. Garcia to face proper proceedings, the Administration, Secretary Noem, and DHS leadership doubled down, resisted court orders, and spread false information to cover up for this blatant violation. Mr. Garcia has now been returned to the United States to face criminal charges, since brought by the Administration. This case demonstrates the deep disregard and violation of fundamental due process protections afforded by the Constitution under Secretary Noem’s leadership.

5. Rounding Up of Foster Care Children Now Put in Detention

In June 2025, a Honduran teen was removed from his foster home in Pensacola, Florida — in handcuffs and shackles – and transferred immediately into ICE custody.⁶ Actions like this endanger the safety, privacy, and welfare of children and caretakers in the foster care system.

6. Unlawful Detention of Tribal Citizens:

ICE agents have reportedly detained or interrogated federally recognized Native Americans—U.S. citizens—during routine traffic stops and at homes in New Mexico, under policies overseen by DHS. A Senate letter described this as “outright disrespect” and an “abdication of U.S. trust and treaty responsibility”.⁷

7. Dismantling DHS Civil Rights Oversight:

On March 21, 2025, Secretary Noem shut down the DHS Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, terminating hundreds of active civil rights and liberties investigations.⁸ The move left victims of detention abuse—U.S. citizens and immigrants alike—without any federal recourse.

8. Lacks Knowledge of Basic Civil Protections:

On May 20 during a senate hearing, Secretary Noem falsely mischaracterized the legal principal *habeas corpus* as “a constitutional right that the president has to be able to remove people from this country”,⁹ when in reality it is a basic and fundamental right that protects people from being jailed without cause.

Each incident reflects a common theme: executive decisions that disregard due process, shield officials from accountability, and erode fundamental rights.

Secretary Noem has not only shown she is incapable of running the Department of Homeland Security and the more than 250,000 employees she oversees within the agency, but has also taken deliberate actions to undermine its mission. When an agency of this size can target entire communities, separate families, and remove a U.S. Senator without explanation or consequence, we must ask: what happens next? We urge you to act with quick and decisive action to protect the democratic principles that bind us all—by holding Secretary Noem to account with full and transparent oversight actions.

As a system of checks and balances, Congress must act now. We demand you hold an oversight hearing into Secretary Noem’s leadership and policies. The aim should be to determine whether her actions have violated constitutional protections, undermined congressional authority, and/or endangered U.S. citizens.

Thank you for treating this plea with the urgency it warrants. We are available to provide further documentation or testify as needed.

Respectfully,

National Organizations

Voto Latino
American Federation of Teachers (AFT)
American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)
America's Voice
Care in Action
Center for Gender & Refugee Studies
Chispa, League of Conservation Voters
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)
Coalition on Human Needs
College Democrats of America
Demos
For Our Future
Forward Latino, Inc.
GreenLatinos
Hispanic Federation
Human Rights Campaign
Human Rights First
Immigration Hub
Indian American Impact
Indivisible
Justice for Migrant Women
Latin America Working Group

Latino Farmers & Ranchers International, Inc.
Latino Victory Project
League of Conservation Voters
League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)
Loretto Link, Inc
Loretto Community Latin America/Caribbean Committee
MANA, A National Latina Organization
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns
Mi Familia Vota
Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate
MoveOn
NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc.
National Action Network
National Domestic Workers Alliance
National Education Association (NEA)
National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association
National Hispanic Media Coalition
National Immigration Law Center
National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (NNIRR)
National Partnership for New Americans
National Partnership for Women & Families
National Urban League
National Women's Law Center
NextGen America
Pax Christi USA
People Power United
Poder Latinx
Pulso
Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund (SALDEF)
Sisters Lead Sisters Vote
Southeast Dignity Not Detention Coalition
Students Organized for a Real Shot (SORS)
The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights
The Workers Lab
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC)
Unite for Reproductive and Gender Equity
Voters of Tomorrow
Washington Office on Latin America
Witness at the Border
Women's March

State Organizations

Arizona

Arizona List
Coalición de Derechos Humanos

California

Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)
Immigrant Defenders Law Center (ImmDef)

Florida

Alianza for Progress

Miami Freedom Project

Hawaii

Loretto Community

Kentucky

Loretto Motherhouse Peace Ctte

Massachusetts

Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition

New Jersey

New Jersey Alliance for Immigrant Justice

New Mexico

Los Familias Solidarity

Ohio

Miami Valley Immigration Coalition

Texas / New Mexico

Estrella del Paso

Texas

Jolt Action

Students Engaged in Advancing Texas

Utah

Voices for Utah Children

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 7. United States Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. (2025, February 20). Heinrich, Schatz Lead Colleagues in Demanding Trump's DHS Uphold Federal Trust and Treaty Responsibilities to Tribal Nations and Immediately End Wrongful ICE Searches and Harassment of Tribal Members. Retrieved from <https://www.indian.senate.gov/newsroom/press-release/democratic/heinrich-schatz-lead-colleagues-in-demanding-trumps-dhs-uphold-federal-trust-and-treaty-responsibilities-to-tribal-nations-and-immediately-end-wrongful-ice-searches-and-harassment-of-tribal/>.
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 9. Doherty, E. (2025, May 20). Noem says Trump can deport who he wants, botches what 'habeas corpus' means. *CNBC*. Retrieved June 14, 2024, from <https://www.cnn.com/2025/05/20/kristi-noem-habeas-corpus-immigration.html>.