

February 27, 2026

Dear Member of Congress,

We, the undersigned civil rights and human rights organizations, firmly denounce President Trump's continuing demonization of our immigrant neighbors and call on Congress to hold firm in demanding meaningful changes to rein in the lawlessness of ICE and Border Patrol.

The President used his State of the Union address to demonize immigrants - repeating racist falsehoods and sowing hatred and division – and to demand funding for DHS. In reality, the unprecedented violence and lawlessness of poorly trained, unaccountable, anonymous federal paramilitary agents is endangering the lives, safety, and prosperity of our communities. Our freedoms now depend on the willingness of Congress to hold ICE and Border Patrol accountable, and we urge members of Congress to remain steadfast in their pursuit of measures that will seriously rein in ICE and Border Patrol and prevent them from assaulting any more communities.

Americans have seen with their own eyes what ICE and Border Patrol lawlessness looks like: federal agents have shot and killed U.S. citizens on American streets, pepper sprayed peaceful protestors, stormed people's homes without a warrant, arrested citizens and lawful residents, and taken young children from their homes. In the days since the administration dispatched “Border Czar” Tom Homan to Minnesota, the lawlessness has continued – and the administration has done nothing to suggest that it will stop racially profiling, beating people, firing tear gas at peaceful protestors, or targeting schoolchildren. Every American community remains at a risk of a federal assault, just like what Minneapolis has suffered. Entire business districts have been reduced to ghost towns, and families remain afraid to leave to pick up groceries, take their children to school, or even to get emergency care or give birth at a medical facility.

Even the threat of losing funding and being under a Congressional microscope has not stopped ICE and Border Patrol from abuse. On February 20, ICE shared the death notification of the [eighth person](#) to die in their custody in 2026. ICE agents are reportedly [disguising](#) themselves as public utilities workers, driving fear and distrust as families deal with winter weather emergencies. And last week, new [reporting](#) revealed that ICE shot and killed a U.S. citizen, Ruben Ray Martinez, last year during a traffic stop without publicly disclosing the incident.

These bloated, overfunded agencies are out of control, and Americans are looking to Congress to act. Polls have [shown](#) that the majority of voters want Congress to reform ICE before agreeing to fund DHS, and that ICE actions [have](#) gone too far. Our communities are scared and angry. They want Congress to end the chaos and ensure that no more communities are endangered by their reckless operations.

Our system of checks and balances was designed precisely to protect against unaccountable government agents operating outside the law. We applaud those members of Congress who have met this moment and refused to give DHS a blank check. Anyone who values the dignity

of all people and the rule of law should agree that statutory guardrails to end the lawless rampages of ICE and Border Patrol are the bare minimum. We are counting on Congress to rein in ICE and Border Patrol to save lives, to help our families and neighbors, and to protect our most cherished civil rights.

Sincerely,

National Organizations

American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)
America's Voice
Asian Americans Advancing Justice (AAJC)
Care in Action
Center for Gender & Refugee Studies (CGRS)
Center for Human Rights and Constitutional Law
Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)
Center for Victims of Torture
Church World Service
Coalition on Human Needs
Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund
Drug Policy Alliance
Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees
HIAS
Human Rights First
Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC)
Immigration Equality
International Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP)
Jewish Council of Public Affairs (JCPA)
Jobs With Justice (JwJ)
Just Detention International (JDI)
Mi Familia Vota
MomsRising
MoveOn Civic Action
National Domestic Workers Alliance
National Education Association
National Hispanic Media Coalition
National Partnership for New Americans (NPNA)
National Priorities Project at the Institute for Policy Studies
National Urban League
National Women's Law Center (NWLC)
Planned Parenthood Action Fund
Public Advocacy for Kids (PAK)
Public Citizen
Public Counsel
Refugee Advocacy Lab
Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism
Robert & Ethel Kennedy Human Rights Center
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund (SALDEF)
South Asian American Justice Collaborative

Southern Border Communities Coalition (SBCC)
Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC)
The Sikh Coalition
The Workers Circle
The Wren Collective
T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights
UnidosUS
Vera Institute of Justice
Welcome With Dignity Campaign
Western States Center
Win Without War
Witness at the Border

State and Local Organizations

Borderlands Resource Initiative (AZ)
Florence Immigrant & Refugee Rights Project (AZ)
Asian Americans Advancing Justice Southern California (AJSOCAL) (CA)
Coalition For Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA) (CA)
Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto (CA)
Immigrant Defenders Law Center (ImmDef) (CA)
Partnership for the Advancement of New Americans (PANA) (CA)
Pilgrim United Church of Christ, Carlsbad (CA)
San Diego Immigrant Rights Consortium (SDIRC) (CA)
Southern California Immigration Project (CA)
Family Action Network Movement (FL)
Latino Policy Forum (IL)
Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition (MA)
New Jersey Alliance for Immigrant Justice (NJ)
Miami Valley Immigration Coalition (OH)
Ohio Immigrant Alliance (OIA) (OH)
Angry Tias and Abuelas (TX)