

**VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION**

February 2, 2026

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

Dear Secretary Noem:

The Trump Administration has made measurable progress in restoring order at the southern border. Under the leadership of Border Czar Tom Homan, conditions no longer resemble the instability of the previous administration. That same level of successful and seamless execution has not always been achieved in the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) recent interior immigration enforcement operations.

Interior enforcement carried out by the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) must be effective, disciplined, and fully compliant with constitutional and statutory limits. While these agencies have historically met that standard, recent operations raise serious questions that require direct oversight.

On November 15, 2025, DHS conducted Operation Charlotte's Web in my home state of North Carolina. The operation resulted in the apprehension of several criminal illegal aliens with extensive criminal records<sup>1</sup>, an outcome I applaud. At the same time, multiple public reports allege that U.S. citizens were detained, subject to force, and experienced damage to personal property. I seek clarification as to whether these reports are merely disingenuous accounts from partisans who do not share our commitment to a secure border, or if they reflect substantiated incidents.

Local reporting describes, among other incidents, a U.S. citizen detained twice in a single day, with the second encounter involving agents shattering the individual's vehicle window and forcibly removing him from the car.<sup>2</sup> Other reports describe an 18-year-old U.S. citizen detained at his workplace in Cary, North Carolina, and later dropped off at a different location, where

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. Department of Homeland Security, *DHS Continues to Catch the Worst of the Worst During Operation Charlotte's Web*, (November 19, 2025), <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2025/11/19/dhs-continues-catch-worst-worst-during-operation-charlottes-web>

<sup>2</sup> WSOC-TV, *Video appears to show Border Control agent breaking window of man being detained*, (November 15, 2025), <https://www.wsoc.tv/news/local/video-appears-show-border-control-agent-breaking-window-man-being-detained/IFT2FBWXZRHQJCNQYK3QYS4/>

CBP agents tossed his belongings.<sup>3</sup> If these accounts are inaccurate, North Carolinians would welcome that clarification. If they are accurate, then they represent a breakdown in safeguards that demands corrective action. Either way, the absence of clear, encounter-level data has made objective evaluation difficult and unnecessarily eroded public confidence.

Similar concerns have since emerged in Minneapolis, Minnesota, where DHS enforcement actions reportedly involved U.S. citizens, use of force, reliance on administrative warrants, and unclear predication for initial engagements. Taken together, these events point to a broader transparency and accountability gap in DHS interior enforcement operations that this Committee has a responsibility to address.

Accordingly, I request written responses and the production of information specified below no later than **March 2, 2026**, in advance of your scheduled testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee.

### **Scope of Request**

For purposes of the requests below, the term “relevant period” refers to November 1, 2025, through the date of production. These requests apply to all DHS components engaged in interior enforcement activities, including but not limited to CBP and ICE, and encompass all responsive records maintained in electronic, tabular, narrative, or database form, regardless of the system of record. Responsive information should be produced as maintained in the ordinary course of business and should not be aggregated, summarized, or otherwise reformatted in a manner that obscures encounter-level detail.

#### **1. Encounter-Level Data Production**

Produce all encounter-level data for DHS interior enforcement operations conducted in North Carolina and Minneapolis, including all stops, detentions, questioning, searches, releases, uses of force, property damage incidents, and encounters involving U.S. citizens. This data should be provided in a tabular or otherwise structured format and include, at a minimum, the following fields for each encounter:

- a. incident or encounter report number;
- b. date, time, and precise location of the encounter;
- c. agency, DHS component, and unit involved;
- d. legal basis for the encounter;
- e. method of engagement (including but not limited to, street stop, traffic stop, workplace enforcement, indication of past criminal activity, administrative warrant, or other predicate);
- f. disposition of the encounter; and
- g. whether use of force or property damage occurred.

#### **2. Encounter Data Governance and Oversight**

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<sup>3</sup> WRAL News, *NC immigration sweep: Man alleges he was unlawfully detained by Border Patrol*, (November 19, 2025), <https://www.wral.com/news/local/fernando-vazquez-border-patrol-detainment-story/>

What are the protocols governing the reporting, validation, supervisory review, retention, auditing, and escalation of encounter-level data, including requirements for incident report completion and review, and any mandatory reporting or notification requirements for uses of force or encounters involving U.S. citizens?

**3. Interagency Coordination and Command Authority**

Produce all documents governing or reflecting coordination between CBP, ICE, and state or local law enforcement for interior enforcement operations during the relevant period, including task force agreements, memoranda of understanding, information-sharing agreements, operational plans, and directives. Identify the command structure for such operations and specify which agency exercises arrest authority and operational control at each stage of an enforcement action.

**4. Operation Charlotte's Web – Apprehensions and Releases**

For Operation Charlotte's Web, please provide the total number of individuals apprehended by CBP and ICE, respectively, and identify how many of those individuals had prior criminal convictions at the time of apprehension (excluding civil immigration violations).

Please also provide the number of individuals released from DHS authority, the legal authority relied upon for each release, and the factors considered in making release determinations.

**5. Encounters Involving U.S. Citizens**

Provide the total number of U.S. citizens who were detained, questioned, searched, or temporarily restrained during Operation Charlotte's Web and DHS interior enforcement actions conducted in Minneapolis during the same period. For each encounter, identify:

- a. the asserted basis for the engagement, including whether it was based on alleged obstruction of DHS operations or another non-immigration-related justification; and
- b. the disposition of the encounter.

**6. Safeguards and Remediation for Wrongful Enforcement**

Describe the safeguards, documentation requirements, supervisory review processes, and remedial mechanisms used to prevent, identify, and address wrongful enforcement actions involving U.S. citizens.

**7. Property Damage and Claims**

Describe the process for submitting claims arising from property damage caused during DHS interior enforcement operations. Provide aggregate data for the relevant period showing:

- a. average and median adjudication timelines;
- b. approval and denial rates; and

c. oversight or review mechanisms used to ensure restitution when warranted.

**8. Training and Constitutional Compliance**

Produce training materials, policy guidance, and evaluation documents governing CBP and ICE officers' obligations with respect to constitutional protections for U.S. citizens and lawful residents and describe how compliance is assessed and enforced.

**9. Use-of-Force Investigations and Local Cooperation**

Produce DHS policies and protocols governing cooperation with state and local investigations into officer-involved uses of force, including scene control, evidence preservation and sharing, interviews of federal officers, and coordination with local prosecutorial authorities.

**10. Entry Into Private Residences**

Produce DHS policies, legal guidance, and compliance or audit materials addressing entry into private residences based solely on administrative warrants, including how compliance with the Fourth Amendment is assessed, enforced, and reviewed in practice.

Thank you in advance for your prompt response. I look forward to your in-person testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee on March 3.

Sincerely,



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Thom Tillis  
United States Senator