

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 27, 2026

The Honorable Markwayne Mullin
Secretary
Department of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20528

David J. Venturella
Acting Director
Immigration and Customs Enforcement
500 12th St. SW
Washington, D.C. 20536

Dear Secretary Mullin and Acting Director Venturella:

We write in regard to your plans to purchase electric shock weapons marketed as gloves for use in immigration enforcement actions. According to your August 10 announcement, you will pay the manufacturer of these weapons, known as the G.L.O.V.E. for Generated Low Output Voltage Emitters, up to \$20 million through a sole-source, no-bid contract.¹ The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) must provide urgent clarification on the scope of this acquisition, the justification for it, and a commitment to cease the procurement immediately.

For the past year and a half, Americans have watched federal immigration enforcement officers engage in the indiscriminate abuse of authority and excessive use of force to detain people they think may be immigrants, no matter their age, size, sex, or whether they pose any threat to officers. Agents seemingly use force as a default—not only when necessary—with tactics that include the use of high-risk neck restraints, knee-to-neck pins, chemical weapons, high-speed vehicle pursuits, and the tackling, shoving, and slamming of civilians.² Meanwhile, DHS and ICE hired thousands of officers and deployed them to communities across the country without the proper vetting or training.³ The consequences have been fatal—the killings of Lorenzo Salgado Araujo in Houston, Johan Sebastián Durán Guerrero in Maine, and Alex Pretti and Renee Good in Minneapolis stand as stark reminders. It is under these circumstances that DHS and ICE plan to outfit officers with electrical devices on their hands, turning any physical contact into an electric shock. They are, in effect, hand-worn tasers disguised as restraint equipment.

¹ Dep't of Homeland Security, Acquisition Planning Forecast System, Forecast Record No: F2026074524 (Aug. 10, 2026) <https://apfs-cloud.dhs.gov/record/74524/public-print/>.

² ACLU, Agents of Chaos and Cruelty: How the Trump Administration's National Deportation Policing Force Has Attacked American Communities, (Jul. 16, 2026), <https://www.aclu.org/publications/agents-of-chaos-and-cruelty-how-the-trump-administrations-national-deportation-policing-force-has-attacked-american-communities>.

³ Ryan Foley, *ICE Went on a Hiring Spree. Sterling Credentials Were not Required, AP Investigation Finds*, ASSOCIATED PRESS, (Apr. 17, 2026), <https://apnews.com/article/ice-background-checks-vetting-immigration-8ae6b7b850f7c0265b3cb8b5060ef8fd>; Michael Kaplan & Camilo Montoya-Galvez, *ICE Whistleblower Warns New Recruits are Receiving "Defective" Training*, CBS NEWS, (Feb. 23, 2026), <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/ice-whistleblower-new-recruits-receiving-defective-training/>.

Compliant Technologies does not “consider” G.L.O.V.E. devices to be weapons and markets them as safer than Tasers or stun guns.⁴ DHS has defended the purchase of these weapons on that basis.⁵ While true that G.L.O.V.E. weapons have a lower voltage output than other electrical current weapons (ECW), we are unaware of any independent evidence or studies that they are safer. Indeed, the manufacturer’s user manual warns that these electric shock weapons can cause sudden death or serious injury, along with physiological changes that increase the risk of elevated blood pressure, changes in blood chemistry, increased respiration and heart rates, changes in heart rhythm, and elevated adrenaline.⁶ The longer the exposure, the higher the risk.⁷ The manufacturer recommends avoiding their use on the elderly, small children, pregnant women, and people with disabilities.⁸ In sum, lower voltage does not mean lower risk. Moreover, because electric shock gloves are easier and faster to use—an officer only has to make hand contact and press a switch, as opposed to unholstering an electronic control weapon, aiming it, and discharging probes—officers may deploy them in situations where they would not have used a less-lethal weapon at all.

Where force is not justified, officers will escape liability. Compliant Technologies’ CEO Jeff Niklaus has made this explicit: “with a glove there are no burn marks or scars when it’s done” and because there is no visible injury, “it doesn’t really pay off” for people to sue officers.⁹ That is not a safety feature, it is a liability shield. These devices are designed to leave no trace—an “invisible partner” according to Compliant Technologies—even when the force is unjustified or violates the Fourth Amendment. DHS is not procuring a less-lethal weapon. It is procuring a tool engineered to evade accountability.

No federal law enforcement agency should deploy a novel, untested electric shock device without independent medical and safety review. Law enforcement best practices demand that electric shock devices including G.L.O.V.E. weapons “be used only by trained personnel and only to overcome *active resistance, its threat, or assaultive behavior or a threat of bodily harm to officers or others.*”¹⁰ Most ICE arrests meet none of these conditions. Since January 2025, ICE has conducted expansive, unsupervised immigration enforcement in public spaces—traffic stops, workplaces, homes—with minimal oversight. Electric shock gloves would become an untested pain compliance weapon in the hands of officers operating with broad discretion, inadequate training, and minimal, if any, accountability.

ICE’s record of lethal and less-lethal force should trigger an immediate moratorium on new force tools, not approval of them. Before DHS considers acquiring and deploying G.L.O.V.E.

⁴ See Compliant Technologies, Gen. 3 & 4 G.L.O.V.E. Product User Guide.

⁵ Nicole Acevedo, *ICE Says Electric Shock Gloves Will Curb Use of Deadly Force. Its Record Casts Doubt, Critics Say*, NBC NEWS, (Aug. 19, 2026) <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/ice-says-electric-shock-gloves-will-curb-use-deadly-force-record-casts-rcna593122>

⁶ Compliant Technologies, Gen. 3 & 4 G.L.O.V.E. Product User Guide.

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ Compliant Technologies, Interview, Assistant Chief Adam Glueck Interview with CEO Jeff Niklaus, (YouTube, Jun. 19, 2024) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ddd-Klualec>.

¹⁰ David Kahn & Nicolas Capriglione, *Modern Force Tactics for Safer Policing*, Police Chief Online (Feb. 11, 2026), <https://www.policechiefmagazine.org/modern-force-tactics-safer-policing/> (emphasis added).

weapons, it must conduct a full accounting of ICE's current use-of-force practices and the deaths that have resulted. Additionally, it must explain to taxpayers why these devices are necessary and justify its pattern of awarding multimillion-dollar contracts without competitive procurement review.¹¹

ICE is answerable to the American public whose trust in the agency has eroded: over half of Americans have little to no confidence in the agency and over half believe it uses excessive force.¹² To that end, DHS and ICE must immediately halt the procurement, deployment, and use of electrical shock G.L.O.V.E. weapons, and provide the following no later than 10 days from the date of this letter:

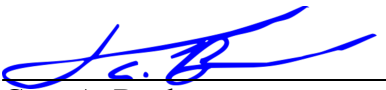
1. All documents and communications reflecting the justification for this procurement, all documents and materials reviewed by DHS prior to the contract, including manuals, safety guidelines, training materials and protocols, or consultations with experts or training instructors, and the identity and title of every official who participated in or approved the acquisition decision.
2. All documents and communications discussing the specific operational need these devices are intended to address, including examples of incidents in which officers were unable to arrest or detain an individual using other available less-lethal weapons or tactics.
3. The legal and factual basis for awarding a sole-source, no-bid contract to Compliant Technologies, including the statutory authority cited and any market research conducted prior to award.
4. All documents and communications reflecting any personal or business association between Compliant Technologies, its principals, or its investors and any official of the Trump Administration, including any financial relationship, prior employment, or role in facilitating this procurement.
5. All documents reflecting any medical, safety, or use-of-force review—whether internal or independent—conducted prior to this procurement, including any risk assessment addressing the potential for death or serious injury.
6. The total number of use-of-force incidents involving ICE officers since January 20, 2025, disaggregated by type of force used, and for each incident: whether injury or death resulted, the employment status of the officer involved, and whether the incident triggered an internal review or disciplinary action.

Your prompt attention to this request is appreciated.

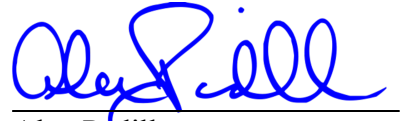
Sincerely,

¹¹ David A. Fahrenthold et. al., *Homeland Security Paid \$464 Million for Airplanes. Then It Parked Them*, NY TIMES, (Aug 13, 2026), <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/08/13/us/politics/homeland-security-parked-airplanes.html>.

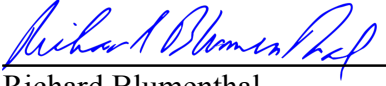
¹² Christopher Cann, *Is ICE Using too Much Force? New Poll Shows Big Public Opinion Shift*, USA TODAY, (Aug. 9, 2026), <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2026/08/09/immigration-support-independents-republicans-midterms/91179270007/>.



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Alex Padilla
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator