

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 29, 2026

The Honorable Kristi Noem  
Secretary of Homeland Security  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
2707 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave SE  
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Noem,

Under your leadership, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has become a paramilitary force that operates with impunity and a disregard for public safety and the rule of law. The horrifying conduct of immigration agents in Minnesota has led to a complete loss of confidence in your ability to serve in your position. We urge you to resign from your position immediately.

Immigration enforcement plays a central role in securing our border and ensuring non-citizens convicted of violent offenses are removed from our country. At your direction, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) have become entirely unmoored from this mission.

The Department's violent immigration enforcement in Minnesota underscores just how far the agency has strayed. This month, immigration agents fatally shot Renee Good and Alex Petti in Minneapolis, Minnesota.<sup>1</sup> The shootings of these two U.S. citizens were made possible by the culture that you have created at DHS.

Under your management, immigration agents' behavior has been consistently brutal and overzealous. Since September 2025, ICE agents have shot 12 people, resulting in four deaths.<sup>2</sup> You have presided over the highest number of in-custody deaths in two decades.<sup>3</sup> In 2025, 32 people died in ICE custody.<sup>4</sup> During that time, CBP reported 17 deaths.<sup>5</sup> This month alone, six people have died in detention centers.<sup>6</sup>

The abhorrent conduct at your Department is rooted in insufficient training and policy changes that have created a culture of impunity. You directed a recruitment effort that has led to

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<sup>1</sup> See Ernesto Londoño, *Man Killed by Federal Agents in Minneapolis Was Holding a Phone, Not a Gun*, N.Y. TIMES (Jan. 24, 2026), <https://www.nytimes.com/live/2026/01/24/us/minneapolis-shooting-ice>.

<sup>2</sup> See Jon Schuppe and Erik Ortiz, *Trump's DHS has Shot 12 People During Immigration Enforcement Operations since September. Here's What to Know*, NBC NEWS (Jan. 25, 2026), <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/ice-shootings-list-border-patrol-trump-immigration-operations-rcna254202>.

<sup>3</sup> See Maanvi Singh et al., *2025 Was ICE's Deadliest Year in Two Decades. Here are the 32 People Who Died in Custody*, GUARDIAN (Jan. 4, 2026), <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/ng-interactive/2026/jan/04/ice-2025-deaths-timeline>.

<sup>4</sup> See *id.*

<sup>5</sup> See Letter from Representative Bennie G. Thompson, Ranking Member of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Homeland Security, et al. to Secretary Kristi Noem, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Jan. 22, 2026 (U.S. House).

<sup>6</sup> See Ted Hesson, *Deaths Mount as Trump Immigration Push Intensifies*, REUTERS (Jan. 24, 2026), <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/deaths-mount-trump-immigration-push-intensifies-2026-01-25/>.

thousands of hastily trained immigration officers being placed into our communities. Since January 2025, DHS has hired over 12,000 new ICE officers.<sup>7</sup> To accommodate this hiring spree, officer training has been reduced from 16 weeks to approximately 6.5 weeks.<sup>8</sup> These trainings are essential to ensure safe, lawful interactions for agents and community members alike.<sup>9</sup>

You also approved new guidance at DHS that violates federal law and the Constitution.<sup>10</sup> In May 2025, but only publicly reported recently, ICE issued a memo directing agents to enter residences —without a judicial warrant—to arrest unauthorized immigrants.<sup>11</sup> The Fourth Amendment prohibits searches and seizures without judicial warrants.<sup>12</sup> DHS has also ignored federal court orders. In Minnesota, the Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court recently accused ICE of having “dozens of court orders with which [they] have failed to comply” during Operation Metro Surge.<sup>13</sup>

Furthermore, your statements condemning the victims of officers’ misconduct have undermined accountability. After agents shot Ms. Good and Mr. Pretti, you immediately downplayed these killings and sought to blame the victims for their deaths. You falsely described Ms. Good, a wife and mother of three, as a domestic terrorist.<sup>14</sup> You claimed that Mr. Pretti brandished a firearm before his death, which is directly contradicted by video evidence.<sup>15</sup> Your statements—made prior to the completion of an investigation and contrary to evidence—have resulted in a massive loss of confidence in your ability to lead DHS.

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<sup>7</sup> See Steve Inskeep, *Homeland Security Expert Talks About ICE’s Truncated Training After Hiring Blitz*, NPR (Jan. 9, 2026), <https://www.npr.org/2026/01/09/5671120/homeland-security-expert-talks-about-ices-truncated-training-after-hiring-blitz>.

<sup>8</sup> See *id.*

<sup>9</sup> See generally Nick Miroff, *The Truth About ICE’s Recruiting Push*, ATLANTIC (Jan. 24, 2026), <https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/2026/01/ice-new-hires-training-minneapolis-shooting/685745/>.

<sup>10</sup> See Kyle Cheney, *Hundreds of Judges Reject Trump’s Mandatory Detention Policy, With No End in Sight*, POLITICO (Jan. 6, 2026), <https://www.politico.com/news/2026/01/05/trump-administration-immigrants-mandatory-detention-00709494>.

<sup>11</sup> See Adrian Florido and Ayesha Rascoe, *Internal DHS Memo Says ICE Agents Can Enter Homes Without a Judicial Warrant*, NPR (Jan. 25, 2026), <https://www.npr.org/2026/01/25/5685400/internal-dhs-memo-says-ice-agents-can-enter-homes-without-a-judicial-warrant>.

<sup>12</sup> See Michael Williams, *New ICE Policy Allows Officers to Enter Homes Without a Judge’s Warrant. Here’s What Experts Say*, CNN (Jan. 22, 2026), <https://www.cnn.com/2026/01/22/politics/ice-memo-warrantless-entry-what-we-know>; Hamed Aleaziz, *ICE Said Agents Can Enter Homes Without Judicial Warrant, Group Claims*, N.Y. TIMES (Jan. 21, 2026), <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/01/21/us/politics/ice-warrant-whistleblower.html>.

<sup>13</sup> *Juan T.R. v. Kristi Noem et al.*, Case No. 26-CV-0107 (D. Mn. 2026).

<sup>14</sup> See Maria Ramirez Uribe and Amy Sherman, *Experts Question Noem Calling Good a “Domestic Terrorist.” Here’s What the Term Means*, PBS (Jan. 10, 2026), <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/experts-question-noem-calling-good-a-domestic-terrorist-heres-what-the-term-means>.

<sup>15</sup> See Alison Durkee, *How Trump Officials—Noem, Miller, Patel—Portrayed Pretti As Violent Despite Conflicting Evidence*, FORBES (Jan. 26, 2026), <https://www.forbes.com/sites/alisondurkee/2026/01/26/how-trump-officials-noem-miller-patel-portrayed-pretti-as-violent-despite-conflicting-evidence/>.

Taken together, your tenure represents a profound failure to uphold the responsibilities of your position. You have displayed a complete disregard for public safety, due process, civil liberties, and constitutional safeguards.

A mission as important as protecting our homeland cannot be placed under your leadership. We call on you to resign immediately.



Peter Welch  
United States Senator



Martin Heinrich  
United States Senator



Alex Padilla  
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator