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**THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY'S
BUDGET REQUEST FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026**

HEARING

BEFORE THE

**COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
UNITED STATES SENATE
ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS**

FIRST SESSION

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THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY'S BUDGET REQUEST FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026

TUESDAY, MAY 20, 2025

U.S. SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY
AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC.

The Committee met, pursuant to notice, at 9:30 a.m., in room SD-342, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Hon. Rand Paul, Chair of the Committee, presiding.

Present: Senators Paul [presiding], Johnson, Lankford, Rick Scott, Hawley, Moreno, Ernst, Moody, Peters, Hassan, Blumenthal, Fetterman, Kim, Gallego, and Slotkin.

OPENING STATEMENT OF SENATOR PAUL¹

Chairman PAUL. The Committee will come to order. I would like to welcome back Secretary Noem to the Committee.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is a \$100 billion agency encompassing 16 different components, from the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). It has grown into an unwieldy bureaucracy rife with unaccountable power and wasteful spending, characteristics all too common in large Federal institutions.

Before your tenure, DHS had quietly expanded its scope, using taxpayer dollars to surveil American citizens, censor speech, and even fund high-risk virus research, all with little to no oversight.

I commend you and the Trump administration for ending all government-sponsored censorship using DHS personnel.

Just last night, I received the first set of records from the Department regarding Tulsi Gabbard's placement on the TSA Quiet Skies watch list. These documents confirm our suspicions. Federal air marshals surveilled the now Director of National Intelligence (DNI) during domestic flights in 2024, reporting back information related to her appearance and even how many electronics she was observed using.

Unfortunately, this is not an isolated case. TSA is not the only DHS component running secretive programs behind closed doors. Most Americans would be shocked to learn that DHS funds both classified and unclassified biological research right here on U.S. soil.

¹ The prepared statement of Senator Paul appears in the Appendix on page 49.

Under your leadership, the Department has begun producing subpoenaed records revealing deeply concerning experiments with biological threat agents. In one case, researchers proposed combining elements of two weakened anthrax strains to re-engineer a version capable of causing disease again. These are experiments that we cannot countenance. You heard that right. DHS was using taxpayer dollars to try to recreate a fully virulent anthrax strain by engineering it from less dangerous components. That sure sounds like gain of function (GOF) to me.

At the National Biodefense Analysis and Countermeasures Center (NBACC), scientists have conducted repeated experiments, aerosolizing some of the world's deadliest pathogens the plague, Ebola, and more, exploring how to increase their lethality and transmissibility. We have documents indicating these experiments have continued during the Biden administration.

NBACC's lab sits adjacent to National Institute of Health (NIH's) Integrated Research Facility at Fort Detrick, the very same facility where just recently Secretary Kennedy and Director Bhattacharya halted research following a disturbing biosafety instance in which a researcher intentionally slashed another's biosafety suit while handling Ebola. Inexcusable.

Afterwards, DHS personnel were reportedly seen padlocking freezers inside the NIH lab. So naturally, I want to know what exactly is the relationship between DHS and NIH at Fort Detrick. What overlap exists between their work?

It should not take a personal altercation and a compromised biosafety suit to initiate oversight. But here we are.

Why is the Department of Homeland Security, an agency meant to defend the homeland, conducting experiments with pathogens capable of killing millions in the first place? These are questions, and the taxpayers deserve answers.

Some might say it is about preparedness, but when does preparedness cross in the line into recklessness? At what point does an attempt to prevent catastrophe actually increase the likelihood of one?

This is only the tip of the iceberg of the reckless research quietly being funded out of the Department of Homeland Security, some of it conducted on behalf of other Federal agencies under the agency's "Work for Others" program, obscuring the ability of Congress and the public to follow the money.

This is not just a domestic safety concern. It is a diplomatic one. DHS conducts internal Arms Control Compliance Assessments to evaluate whether its projects could violate—or appear to violate—the Biological Weapons Convention. If DHS is engaging in high-risk virus research that could lead to a catastrophic leak or could be perceived as U.S. violating the Biological Weapons Convention, then the Department is not securing the homeland. It is endangering it.

That is why Congress must pass my bipartisan Risky Research Review Act, to establish independent oversight of federally funded gain-of-function research and other potentially dangerous studies.

We do not even have a universally accepted definition of gain-of-function, allowing researchers to pick and choose the standards that suit them. That is not real oversight.

Secretary Noem, I appreciate your demonstrated commitment to reversing the obstruction of your predecessor and pushing back on efforts by entrenched bureaucrats within the Department to delay, redact, and resist oversight. You have inherited a difficult task, restoring accountability to a department that has strayed from its founding mission.

This is a pivotal moment. I look forward to continuing to work with you to bring about long overdue transparency to the American people.

Thank you, and I recognize the Ranking Member.

OPENING STATEMENT OF SENATOR PETERS¹

Senator PETERS. Thank you, Chair Paul. Secretary Noem, thank you for joining us today.

The Department of Homeland Security is responsible for a number of critical missions that safeguard our Nation, from preventing terrorism and cyberattacks, to securing our northern as well as southern borders, and, of course, responding to natural disasters.

In a disappointing departure from prior administrations, including President Trump's first administration, we are holding today's hearing to discuss the Department's budget needs without having received a detailed budget request from the President, or briefings from the Department's components about their budget needs.

However, we have seen in just a few short months under the Trump administration, how the Department has undergone tremendous changes. I have serious concerns that some of those changes are harming, rather than helping, the Department in its mission to protect the safety and the security of all Americans.

For example, as we head into hurricane season and the wildfire season, the Administration has halted critical FEMA programs that support flood mitigation and slashed staff who focus on disaster relief. These are critical resources for States in the aftermath of a natural disaster, and the Administration has provided little or no justification for these changes. FEMA has even internally acknowledged that it is not ready for hurricane season, which starts in just 11 days.

Despite that, the Administration is still planning on shifting the burden for disaster response to State and local governments, which will put Americans at grave risk the next time disaster strikes, which is inevitable.

Similarly, at a time when we are facing increasing threats from cyberattacks, the Administration plans to drastically cut our nation's primary cybersecurity agency, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA). CISA is supposed to be finalizing a rule required by law that this Committee passed to improve cyber incident reporting to better protect our critical infrastructure from cyberattacks, yet reporting indicates that 700 CISA employees have taken deferred resignation under pressure from this Administration.

CISA's work on election security has stopped and the agency's advisory committees have been shuttered. These actions make us less prepared to address cybersecurity attacks.

¹The prepared statement of Senator Peters appears in the Appendix on page 52.

The Administration also proposes cutting \$247 million from the Transportation Security Administration's budget to reduce the number of frontline TSA agents. At a time when air travel is at an all-time high and we are entering the busy summer travel season, these cuts only threaten to make our skies and flying travelers less secure.

At the same time, the Administration has also cut congressionally mandated oversight offices that protect the civil rights and civil liberties of individuals who interact with DHS components. These offices were put in place to ensure DHS personnel can conduct their important national security missions effectively, while safeguarding the rights of the people in this country. Shutting these offices down not only puts Americans at risk, it also is a violation of the Homeland Security Act itself.

Despite several inquiries to your office for more information, I have yet to receive a sufficient explanation for these actions.

I also have serious concerns about this Administration's inappropriate use of the U.S. military for domestic immigration enforcement and the outrageous use of taxpayer dollars, which I will be asking questions about, for detention at Guantanamo Bay. Certainly anyone concerned about prudent use of taxpayer money should be outraged by what is happening down there.

Our nation faces a multitude of homeland security challenges, and this Committee has always been willing to work to address them on a bipartisan basis.

Secretary Noem, when we first met prior to your confirmation, you gave me a commitment that you would work with me to address the many threats facing our Nation. I hope today's hearing will be an honest discussion about the resources the Department needs to do just that, and I welcome having that kind of discussion.

I would hope that we would be able to have that discussion in a way that we have done in this Committee, in a bipartisan way, for as long as I can remember, where our first round would be seven minutes and then a second round would be five minutes. Certainly, Chair Paul, I would hope you would continue the precedent that I have always known. When Senator Johnson was Chair of the Committee. He always made sure that everybody had seven minutes. Certainly homeland security is a primary concern for you, Madam Secretary, and for all of us, and I am sure why the Chair is insisting on five minutes. I know you are fully capable of answering for seven minutes, and should not be concerned about it, but apparently the Chair is concerned about that extra time.

Mr. Chair, I hope we would get seven minutes on the first round and then five, as we always have, as long as this Committee has been in existence.

Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I look forward to seven-minute rounds.

Chairman PAUL. It is the practice of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee (HSGAC) to swear in witnesses. Secretary Noem, please stand and raise your right hand.

Do you swear the testimony you will give before this Committee will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you, God?

Secretary NOEM. I do.

Chairman PAUL. Secretary Noem, thank you for appearing today. As you know, I have been concerned for a long time about gain-of-function research. I commend the President and the Administration for having an Executive Order (EO) to stop it. Some of the problems are in the definitions of it. Anthony Fauci said if it is an animal virus it cannot be gain-of-function, and yet animal viruses can be trained to infect humans. We think that is what happened, ultimately, with Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

We think some of the dangerous research is going on at the lab controlled by DHS. Have you begun to look into this? I know Secretary Kennedy said that you and he will be going out, and I have requested permission to attend that, as you go out to look at these labs. Have you looked at these labs yet to get a feeling for what gain-of-function?

Senator PETERS. Mr. Chair, are we going to have opening comments from the Secretary, or are we skipping that, as well?

Chairman PAUL. Oh, I neglected that. I went right into questions without doing that.

Secretary NOEM. It is all right. It is your Committee, Mr. Chair.

Chairman PAUL. Let's start again. Secretary Noem, you are recognized for your remarks.

**TESTIMONY OF HON. KRISTI NOEM,¹ SECRETARY, U.S.
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY**

Secretary NOEM. OK. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you Ranking Member Peters for the honor of allowing me to be here today. Thank you to all the Senators for your participation and oversight into the Department of Homeland Security. I am looking forward to visiting with you about all of the accomplishments that we have been able to tackle these first several months of this Trump administration.

I am also blessed to have my husband with me today, so I thank him for his support, and my family's support, as well, as I fill this role for our country.

Having previously served eight years as a Member of Congress, it is my distinct honor to be on this side of the dais today as the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security. Today I am proud to discuss all of our accomplishments since President Trump took office. High on the list is the mandate, and was the mandate on the very first day, to secure our Southern border and to start deporting illegal criminal aliens.

The border crisis is the biggest problem that was facing our country, and it was one that was imperative to fixing for our nation's future. We are solving this crisis at a record pace, and we have delivered the most secure border in American history. We have obtained near-complete operational control of the border, with daily encounters down 93 percent since President Trump took office. Because we are fixing this biggest challenge so quickly, President Trump can focus on other priorities, as well, and problems that are facing the American people.

Let's just look at the last 10 days. Last week, he signed a historic prescription drug reduction in pricing Executive Order that will

¹The prepared statement of Ms. Noem appears in the Appendix on page 55.

slash prices for the American people. After that, he went on a trip to completely rewrite America's relationship with the Middle East. During this trip, he secured trillions of dollars of new investments in the United States with several Middle Eastern countries. He is also taking steps toward rebuilding our relationship with Syria.

The last living American hostage held by Hamas, Edan Alexander, was finally released and returned home to his family. He announced major new trade deals with both China and the United Kingdom (UK). Just yesterday, President Trump jump-started cease-fire talks between Russia and Ukraine. With only the kind of leadership that President Trump could provide, we prevented the breakout of an all-out war between India and Pakistan.

These historic accomplishments were possible because President Trump confronted right away the chaos at the Southern border. President Trump can continue to not only make America safe, but he can also continue to work to make the entire world safer.

Now at the Department of Homeland Security under President Trump, we have already delivered a drastic turnaround in homeland security, from the Southern border to our U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) to cyberspace, and we are just getting started. The secure border has allowed our men and women of law enforcement at DHS to zero in on fighting cartels and their illicit activities.

Under President Trump, we have designated six cartels and four dangerous criminal gangs as foreign terrorist organizations. This has allowed us to take a whole-of-government approach to going after these murderers and these drug traffickers. In March, fentanyl traffic at the border fell 54 percent compared to the previous year. Once again, the United States is enforcing immigration laws to arrest, identify, detain, and remove dangerous illegal alien criminals. We are prioritizing those that are a public safety threat to people, especially those who are affiliated with the terrorist organizations MS-13 and Tren de Aragua.

Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has worked to enforce President Trump's America First trade agenda, and the Biden administration's trade policies that hollowed out America's industrial base have been changed. We are no longer shipping our jobs overseas. Instead, we are using tariffs as an effective negotiating tool.

The Department of Homeland Security is reforming emergency management in this country. We have the FEMA Review Council, which will be doing the work to make recommendations and also work with this body to change the department into something that actually gives more local and State control, and that first council meeting is today.

We are also taking steps to defend the nation's transportation systems, which are vulnerable targets for attack. The Transportation Security Administration is responsible for ensuring all of the safety of individuals who travel. In a single day there are 45,000 flights and nearly 2.9 million Americans and passengers in the United States.

We are also fulfilling our obligation, and did do so, to implement Real ID, which was enacted and put in law over 20 years ago. Validated IDs secure travel, safeguard our elections, and help make sure that we never experience another tragedy like September 11, 2001 (9/11) again.

As technology advances, so do the threats to our Nation. That is why cybersecurity is so crucial to our future. Countries like Communist China have the capability and the intent to infiltrate and to potentially disrupt our critical infrastructure systems. Despite these threats, the Biden administration instead used CISA to promote politics and police speech. Under President Trump, we have been working to get CISA back on its intended cybersecurity mission.

The Coast Guard is the only branch of the U.S. Armed Forces (USAF) that is under the umbrella of the Department of Homeland Security. It has many missions with specialized needs. As we secure our Southern border, the cartels have shifted their activities out into our maritime borders. The Coast Guard has already surpassed fiscal year (FY) 2024's drug interdiction numbers just since President Trump took office, and they have also excelled at search and rescue while interdiction of illicit substances, as well.

Still, the Coast Guard is facing our greatest readiness crisis since World War II. We have a plan to reinvigorate this critical component, make sure they are ready for the future. With Force Design 2028, we will transform the Coast Guard into a more agile, capable, and responsive force. We are making sure that they have the resources and that they have the vision to lead and to be the point of the spear in the future.

Now since I took office, one of the responsibilities that I have is in reforming the U.S. Secret Service (USSS). We have reassessed the Secret Service's needs. We have gotten recruitment away from diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) recruitment that the Biden administration was doing, and we are making sure that they are equipped and ready to take on the task of protecting our future leaders and the leaders of today.

Mr. Chair, I want to thank you and thank this Committee for your time today in allowing me to get the facts out into these important issues and topics that we will be discussing today and to visit with this Committee.

I am so grateful to the men and women of the Department of Homeland Security for all the good work they are doing to serve the American public, their examples of bravery and patriotism and dedication. It is our responsibility to continue to provide for them the resources that they need to continue doing the important work that they do.

With that, Mr. Chair, I look forward to answering your questions, and I yield back.

Chairman PAUL. Great. You got a preview of my question—
Secretary NOEM. I did. That is good. That is all right.

Chairman PAUL [continuing]. Since I went out of order. But NBACC, out there by Fort Detrick, we are concerned that they are still doing some dangerous research out there, and it needs more oversight. Do you have any update for us on that?

Secretary NOEM. I do, and I want to thank the Chair for bringing a lot of history to my knowledge of this lab in and the work that it was doing, and I appreciate Secretary Kennedy's input, as well.

Yes, we do have a visit planned in the future here in the next 10 days to 2 weeks, with Secretary Kennedy, to look into the work

that this lab is doing and if it is appropriate for the Department of Homeland Security to be engaged in that.

I think your concerns have created some oversight that is very helpful, and will be helpful in making sure that they are doing correct research that actually is beneficial and not research that has been abused in the past.

Chairman PAUL. The President has banned gain-of-function, and as you and I have discussed, it is important that someone can simply come forward who disagrees and says, "Well, this doesn't meet the definition of gain-of-function." This is essentially what Anthony Fauci did when everybody said the research in Wuhan was gain-of-function. They were taking an animal virus. They were running it through an animal model with human lungs, over and over again, and adapting it to be infectious in humans. That is gain-of-function.

The people and personnel make a difference. So what I would ask is as you ask the career people out there, who have been doing the experiments, you realize that their natural tendency is to want to keep doing what they have been doing. I think it is going to take scrutiny, new people, new scientists, consultants, to look at each one of these say, "Don't just tell me you are not doing it. Give me a list of 20 or 30 experiments. What are you doing?"

As an example of that we have been sending records requests for three years and we got nothing until you came into office. I hope that you will be looking at our records requests. They are all dated and timed, some of them by five Republicans, some of them by Republicans and Democrats, and they were just routinely ignored.

Have you had a chance to look at the chain of questioning here to see if there is anybody that was actually purposely obstructing us?

Secretary NOEM. Yes. I thank you for asking those questions and talking about the follow-up to Members of Congress, Senators and Representatives. My predecessor did not respond to anybody. It did not matter if you were a Republican or a Democrat, he did not respond to your letters and your oversight. I have tasked all of my people with changing that about our Department of Homeland Security, that we will be responsive to Congress.

We have given you about 50,000 pages, I think, so far of information. We continue to get and gather more data and facts that we can return to you, so you can conduct oversight.

What I would say is between NIH and the Department of Homeland Security there are no research projects ongoing right now today or that we have been able to find as far as projects they were doing together. We did have a couple of employees that were contracted for their specialty backgrounds that have done work over at NIH before. But that kind of oversight needs to happen, and I think it is important that we have an independent, outside source that also is reviewing the work that they do.

Chairman PAUL. As you are collecting the records, I would just ask that you ask the people why wasn't it given before and see if you can find where the chain of command ended. Were there people purposely not giving us the records, because they really should not be employed by government.

Secretary Mayorkas told us repeatedly that there was no censorship going on, CISA was not doing anything, they were not involved with speech. We know from the Twitter files they were. Have you uncovered any internal communications or activities that contradict their technology with regard to the government being involved in censorship?

Secretary NOEM. Yes, sir, we have literally found thousands of documents that have proven that they were involved in censorship and policing speech. We will be unveiling these to this Committee and making sure we are exposing what CISA was doing with a vast majority of its time of certain employees. Some of the discussion I think we will have here today is about getting CISA back on mission and some of the reductions in staff that have been over there, and that is reflective in the fact that many of them were doing work that they should not have been doing.

Chairman PAUL. I hope you will look at our bill, the Risky Research Review Act. Administrations do a lot of things, and a lot of good things, and then they go away when the next administration comes in. The good thing about this legislation, it would be a Presidential commission of scientists to define, on a continual basis, what is or is not gain-of-function, to rule on that. It has been voted in a bipartisan way. It was a unanimous vote out of this Committee. It is one of the few things in Congress we actually, I think, have bipartisan support for.

So we hope the Administration will look at that and considering making a public endorsement of that. That way we can make permanent the things you are trying to do to constrain gain-of-function.

Thank you for your testimony, and with that I recognize Senator Peters.

Senator PETERS. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Secretary Noem, thank you for being here again before the Committee today. I also appreciated the time we spent yesterday morning on the phone discussing a variety of issues, and I look forward to those kinds of discussions continuing in the future.

As you know the protections for sharing information under the Community Information Sharing Act of 2015, confusingly referred to as CISA of 2015, but it deals with the information sharing, expires at the end of September. This is a critical authority that applies to information sharing across the Federal Government, not only to CISA, the agency, but it also allows the agency the ability to have robust and timely cyber threat information shared between public and private sectors as well as among private sector companies, so folks have an understanding of the threat landscape that is out there and have full awareness of what is coming at them by nefarious actors.

Does the Administration support the extension of this incredibly important authority that I have been hearing about from a number of stakeholders that they are very concerned it is going to expire. Does the Administration support the extension?

Secretary NOEM. Yes, we do. Thank you, Senator Peters. It is very important piece of legislation, that does extend it for 10 more years, which I think is a long enough timeframe for us to really make sure that we have the stability we need in this area to create

those kinds of partnerships you were talking about with private industry.

We need their expertise and their knowledge and their interaction with those across the world that hate the United States of America (USA) to come in and cooperate with us, to make sure we are prepared to secure our systems and our critical infrastructure.

Senator PETERS. Great. I look forward to your support and the Administration's support so we can pass this extension, the 10-year extension, before it expires. You are absolutely right how critical it is.

Secretary Noem, I am also concerned about the increasing number of security threats that we are seeing from drone incursions to public spaces, to airports, critical infrastructure sites all across our country, as we spoke about yesterday morning. Just last week, a man in Michigan was arrested after he allegedly tried to attack the U.S. Army's Tank Automotive and Armaments Command Facility at the Detroit Arsenal in Warren. According to prosecutors, the man flew a drone over the facility to conduct operational reconnaissance, further highlighting the need to ensure that law enforcement is properly resourced to deal with this growing threat.

While I understand that there are safety concerns with the technology, that need to be addressed by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), I would like for all of us to work together to reauthorize DHS and Department of Justice (DOJ's) counter-drone authorities that also expire at the end of September, because this threat, as you know, is not going away. Last Congress, Senator Johnson and I introduced a bill, S. 1631 Safeguarding the Homeland from the Threats Posed by Unmanned Aircraft Systems Act of 2023 that I think is a good starting point.

My question for you, Secretary Noem, is can I get your commitment that we can work together to not only reauthorize these authorities on a long-term basis but actually strengthen those authorities to make sure we deal with this persistent threat?

Secretary NOEM. Yes, Senator Peters. I will take a look at your legislation specifically. But we do need to reauthorize the authorities that we do have in order to address not just our homeland security day-to-day activities, but we are hosting some very large events in this country that will, I think, challenge our ability to secure that many large events at one time. So having those kinds of authorities and addressing what we can do to cooperate with States and local governments and cities in locations where big events happen would be very important to do that.

So you are right. The expansion of those authorities needs to be looked at, to make sure it is appropriate, but also gives us the tools we need to keep people safe. We have the Club Cup coming this summer, the World Cup next summer, which will be 10 million ticketed people, 22 million people that will be involved in the activities surrounding it, the Olympics coming. It is important we address this now so we can be proactive.

Senator PETERS. Yes, absolutely. I appreciate that. Senator Johnson and I would appreciate it. Our biggest supporter for our bill is actually the National Football League (NFL), who have real concerns about their games. We have already had games interrupted, and it could be more serious at some point.

Secretary Noem, two weeks ago, during a Senate Appropriations hearing, you told me, very clearly, to question that I had, that CISA was, quote, “back on mission,” end of mission. If this is accurate, my question is why is the Administration proposing to cut \$500 million from an agency’s budget, an agency that is “on mission” right now, when those activities you previously described as off-mission, specifically election security work, cost about \$20 million. Those folks have been let go. They are no longer there. I can understand a cut of \$20 million, but this is a cut of \$500 million.

If you could tell this Committee, what specific activities or departments at CISA does the Department plan to cut as a result of these very large, proposed cuts, and if you could please give some specific examples of offices and programs. As you know, the CISA statutory requirements are extensive. You have a lot on your plate. You have a lot to cover. You need to have resources to do that. But this is a pretty significant cut in funding, and we need to know exactly what protection will not be offered after these cuts go into effect.

Secretary NOEM. Yes, we will continue to fulfill all the statutory requirements that the Department of Homeland Security has and has given to CISA in the work that it does. Putting it back on mission means that it fulfills the responsibility of why it was created, and that is to be the cybersecurity agency of the Nation, to go out and secure our critical infrastructure, work with small and medium-sized businesses and States and localities to give them the insight and wisdom they need to make sure that they are not vulnerable to hackers or nefarious activity.

Getting rid of censorship, getting rid of the Ministry of Truth at CISA, the employees that were duplicative, that were fulfilling roles that were not related to cybersecurity was something that we addressed. I would say under the President’s budget, cybersecurity has only strengthened, and we are doubling down on the need to build private and partner with those individual industries that have the expertise and knowledge that we lacked for so long.

They are looking for some more abilities to do new things for this country as far as giving us insight into nefarious activities. But they do ask that we give them some level of protection from liabilities. I think you are very familiar with some of their concerns. I want to work with you to see what we can do to address those needs so that we can have the information we need to really, truly secure the country.

One of the biggest, alarming things—and I think I visited with you about this before—was that we still do not necessarily know how to stop the next Salt Typhoon, Volt Typhoon. Private industry can help us with that with their knowledge. They see things that we don’t, and that partnership could be strong and make sure that we are not just spending more dollars with no means to an end, that we actually have an end that ends with a more secure United States of America.

Senator PETERS. I look forward to working with you. Thank you.
Chairman PAUL. Senator Johnson.

OPENING STATEMENT OF SENATOR JOHNSON

Senator JOHNSON Madam Secretary welcome. Thank you for your service. I think you have probably seen this chart. For the first time I have brought this chart and it is showing good news. For the previous four years, it described a disaster, a catastrophe, a clear and present danger to this country. One of the reasons I want to put it up here is to point out how we were lied to, during that entire four-year period, by the administration, reinforced by our colleagues on the other side of the aisle, saying we had to have Congress act. You know, we needed legislation. The fact of the matter is, no, we just needed a new President. We needed President Trump.

Now, I would have been happy to pass a bill to reinforce President Biden's authorities to secure the border, but he did not want to.

I think what is clear about this chart, you can see when President Biden was considering reelection, he realized the catastrophe at hand was becoming politically unpopular. So he used the executive authority that President Trump had used to secure the border in his first term, and he started actually making progress on that.

Again, it is just important that the American people understand that for four years the Biden administration, reinforced by the folks on the other side of the aisle, lied, bold-faced, that President Biden did not have the authority to secure the border. He wanted an open border. That is exactly what he got.

Now, the question I have for you off this chart is, in his first term, it took President Trump about 12 months to go from his peak of almost 5,000 encounters per day to a little over 500. You know, Remain in Mexico, the agreements he had with the third countries, that type of thing.

How could he do it so swiftly this time? This is literally a matter of months. In February there were 418 encounters per day, on average. In March it was 355. This is stunning success. I just kind of want to get your reaction in terms of how he accomplished it and how you guys accomplished this.

Secretary NOEM. I would say, Senator, that the President used not only the laws that were already on the books and started enforcing them. He also made sure that he talked about it and messaged it. Throughout the campaign he talked about the need for a secure border.

What we need to remember, constantly, in this country is that the world listens to everything that we say and what our leaders say. He told me specifically when he nominated me for this position, "I don't want you just to go and run the Department of Homeland Security, secure the border, and make sure that our agencies are back on mission. I want you to tell the world what we are doing." Because the only way they are going to stop coming to this country is if they know never to leave their home country. If they know that we are enforcing laws they will stop coming.

And that is exactly what is happening. Because of our messaging, because of the fact that we have actively talked, in Guatemala, in Honduras, in Mexico, about, "Don't come to the United States anymore illegally. There will be consequences," they have stayed there. In fact, we are showing now in the Darién Gap that

it is reverse migration, that people that got to Mexico, never even made it to the border, now they are turning around and going back home.

When I was in Mexico visiting with the President there and with government leaders, she said, specifically, they think there could be 500,000 to 600,000 people that just stopped in Mexico, that turned around, that were never even countered that reached our border.

I think that is why in March you saw less than 200 encounters a day, and it was a historic low for this country in encounters, and it was because not only did he enforce the law and show there would be consequences if you broke our laws, which is what our country was built on.

He also made sure that we talked to the American people about why we were doing it, that it was for our safety and for our future, and that also, to these other countries, that it was no longer going to be the status quo of Joe Biden.

Senator JOHNSON. Of course, that is a sea change. The Biden administration welcomed, I mean, they encouraged incentivized people to come here.

Secretary NOEM. Correct.

Senator JOHNSON. So this is a budget hearing. I do want to ask, in the first Trump administration I have best information we built something like 458 miles of walls, cost about \$6.6 billion, about \$14 million per mile. Your budgetary request right now is for \$46.5 billion, a lot more. That would, at the same price, building something more than 3,000 miles. So can you kind of square that circle, or circle that square, whatever? Can you explain exactly what are you asking for in that \$46.5 billion? Why is the request so high when we were able to build so many miles in the first term for a lot less?

Secretary NOEM. Today the estimates are that building steel bollard wall will be over \$12 million a mile, is what they are estimating. We have built about 70 miles of wall since the President has been in office, but that has been a mixture of permanent steel versus temporary versus a little bit of buoy barrier, where it is appropriate, that are waterborne.

Senator JOHNSON. Again, the \$12 million is less than the \$14 million I had calculated. That would be way more than 3,000 miles. Are you really planning on building 3,000 miles?

Secretary NOEM. The problem that we have at the border right now is that we have CBP cameras and towers that do not work. We have some authorities there with the FAA on infrastructure that helps us do surveillance of areas where there is not a wall, that is not even operational. I would say one out of three actually are functioning today, which makes the individuals that are there work even harder.

We talk about gotaways and what happens today. The truth is that there are portions of this border that we still do not necessarily know what happens there 24/7.

Senator JOHNSON. We are \$37 trillion in debt. I am just going to ask that you and the Department sharpen your pencil on that wall request. I think it is more than you need. Again, I am happy to provide the support you need to secure the border, do the deportations, but we need to be very concerned about how much we are spending, and it needs to all be justified.

Secretary NOEM. Thank you.
Chairman PAUL. Senator Hassan.

OPENING STATEMENT OF SENATOR HASSAN

Senator HASSAN. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Good morning, Madam Secretary. Secretary Noem, the White House Deputy Chief of Staff recently said that the Trump administration is actively looking at suspending habeas corpus. Last week you were asked about this, and I want to clarify your position because it is obviously really important to get this right.

So Secretary Noem, what is habeas corpus?

Secretary NOEM. Habeas corpus is a constitutional right that the President has to be able to remove people from this country—

Senator HASSAN. No—

Secretary NOEM [continuing]. to suspend their right to—

Senator HASSAN. No, let me stop you, ma'am. Excuse me. That is incorrect.

Secretary NOEM. President Lincoln used it.

Senator HASSAN. Excuse me. Habeas corpus is the legal principle that requires that the government provide a public reason for detaining and imprisoning people. If not for that protection, the government could simply arrest people, including American citizens, and hold them indefinitely for no reason.

Habeas corpus is the foundational right that separates free societies like America from police States like North Korea. As a Senator from the Live Free or Die State, this matters a lot to me and my constituents, and to all Americans.

Secretary Noem, do you support the core protection that habeas corpus provides, that the government must provide a public reason in order to detain and imprison someone?

Secretary NOEM. I support habeas corpus. I also recognize that the President of the United States has the authority under the Constitution to decide if it should be suspended or not.

Senator HASSAN. It has never been done without approval of Congress. Even Abraham Lincoln got retroactive approval from Congress.

Let us be clear. I have been asking Executive Branch nominees a simple question over the past few months. If the President orders them to break the law, I have been asking will you follow the law or follow the order? I want to ask you a more specific question here. If the President tries to suspend habeas corpus and a Federal court reverses the President's order, will you comply with the court order and uphold habeas corpus or will you follow the President's direction?

Secretary NOEM. We are following all Federal court orders and are complying with that, as is the President and every decision I make, as well.

Senator HASSAN. Well, that is obviously not true for anybody who reads the news. There are Federal court orders right now, including returning somebody who was deported mistakenly.

But to be clear, this is about a fundamental legal right that ensures that we live in a free society instead of a police State that would have a sham legal system like Russia or North Korea.

I am glad that you have now committed to following court orders. I am glad you believe in the basic freedom for Americans if ordered to do so by a court. Again, I want just to make clear that it is critically important that even if the President tries to suspend the right of people to know why they have been detained or imprisoned, if a Federal court reverses that order that you will follow that order, and I hope all the members of the Administration will. Because it is obviously critical that some of the people, for instance, who have been deported by mistake, who did not get due process, be returned in compliance with court orders.

So now let's move on to another issue. International criminal organizations target Americans with sophisticated cybercrime, including elaborate scams that robbed Americans of billions of dollars, with seniors in the United States losing \$5 billion to scammers in 2024 alone. As artificial intelligence (AI) improves so does the ability of criminals to deceive and defraud Americans. With this new technology, criminals can impersonate loved ones, develop advanced malware, or make more convincing phishing messages.

How is DHS working to identify trends in illegal activity and ensure that new AI systems have safeguards in place to prevent their use in criminal activity?

Secretary NOEM. Yes. We are working extensively through CISA but in all of our agencies to make sure that we are going after these criminal nefarious active. I would say partnering with private industry is critically important so that we have the insight that we need to really understand the tactics that they use and the advancements in software.

The AI ability that they have to adjust and to supersede some of our systems is incredible. So investing in those systems is important, but also having the knowledge of bringing everybody to the table and breaking down the silos between our agencies and our intelligence agencies is important, so we all have the information that we need together.

Senator HASSAN. That gets me to one final point and question here, because Senator Peters began to ask about it. There has been recent reporting that indicates that the Chinese government installed remote access to Chinese-made power inverters in the United States, raising concerns that the Chinese government could try to disable parts of our power grid. And you made a comment following up on Senator Peters' question about the importance of not only working with private industry on this issue, as you would also want to work on AI, but also on working with State and local governments on cybersecurity.

Can you just talk to me a little bit about how DHS is partnering with State and local governments right now on cyber?

Secretary NOEM. Well, that is one of the core critical missions of CISA is to help those State and local governments harden their systems. We are extremely vulnerable by our weakest link. When you have a small State that does not have the resources it needs to invest in these security operations, then they are vulnerable to attacks and hacking attempts, and they can access our systems if they have a contract or a system that interfaces with the Federal system, it makes us vulnerable, as well.

So we are responsible for 10 of the 16 critical infrastructures under the Department of Homeland Security and making sure that China cannot come in and shut down our electrical grid, our water systems, things that people rely on every day for their day-to-day lives is very important. So that is why we need these kinds of partnerships is to make sure that we are secure all the way down to our smallest actor that participates.

Senator HASSAN. I appreciate that and I appreciate working more with you on that. Thank you.

Secretary NOEM. Thank you.

Chairman PAUL. Senator Lankford.

OPENING STATEMENT OF SENATOR LANKFORD

Senator LANKFORD. Secretary Noem, good to see you again. Thanks for your leadership and the work that you have already done, and there is a lot more still to do, but you all had a pretty remarkable start in the process, and I am very grateful. For four years, every single hearing we ever had with any DHS official was dominated by border—close it, close it, close it, close it—and excuses why they couldn't, couldn't, couldn't, couldn't. It is kind of fun for me, actually, to be able to sit here and hear conversations about FEMA, about Coast Guard, about all the other aspects of DHS that are out there, Secret Service, when all we had time to talk about was about border in the previous time.

I had my team pull together just the March numbers for the last four years of border crossings and what happened. If we go back to March 2022, 222,000; 2023, 193,000; 2024, 189,000; and then this last March, 11,000. And to be able to see the dramatic difference that has happened in a very short period of time, and the enforcement that has actually happened, it has given a deep breath to the Nation. It has also given an opportunity for the folks at the border to catch up.

I was in San Diego a couple of weeks ago, meeting with the Border Patrol folks, CBP, and Coast Guard there in San Diego and their enforcement around the Tijuana border, and to be able to see what is happening, and the morale there is just dramatically different, from the times that I have been there in the past.

You had mentioned Coast Guard, as well, and I want to be able to just highlight that, and then I have a whole bunch of other questions I want to go through. But I just wanted to say thank you to you and your team for the work that has been done.

Coast Guard folks are getting an additional pressure point there. Folks are getting on jet skis and panga boats and coming around. Coast Guard is not only saving lives, as we have seen in the past couple of weeks even, about some of these panga boats that are coming in, that are capsizing out there. Coast Guard is rescuing and actually removing folks at the same time, in the process.

They have to have additional cameras. The different radar systems. They need additional people that are there. I saw some of the Department of Defense (DOD) personnel that are working alongside the Coast Guard folks to be able to assist them, from other agencies of DOD. They need additional folks there.

One of the questions I wanted to ask you was about Coast Guard. In the plan you mentioned that, about additional assets.

But there are radars, cameras, other things, including personnel, that they are going to need help on.

Secretary NOEM. Yes. I would say the Coast Guard, its mission set is pretty expansive, and most of the time they are not only just doing search and rescue. They are out there doing interdiction on the water. They are also participating with the Navy in securing projects and missions worldwide. Their cutters move faster and help work securing our warships and our aircraft carriers, and it is incredibly important the work that they do.

We are grateful for that, but we also recognize that they have been neglected for years. They have got cutters that have been delayed. We are outmanned by Russia and China every day in the Arctic region, in the Indo-Pacific region, as well. We need more assets. But down on the border, specifically, you talked about the fact that these cartels are using faster boats with faster engines and jet skis to outmaneuver the Coast Guard, and that is how they are penetrating into the country and proliferating their drug use and human trafficking.

We are going to continue to get them the assets they need. They need airframe. They have several that have been grounded because they cannot even be maintained anymore. They need cutters, but they also need Counter-Unmanned Aircraft Systems (C-UAS) technology. Every cutter could use that. They see drones every day out there on the waters, and in the work that they do they do that they cannot find out why they are hovering over their mission set, what they are doing, if they are weaponized, and then use that to protect our country.

They also need satellite technology. They need new software systems, and to be able to interact with law enforcement. Their communications, I talked to one Coastie when I was out spending time with them on the front line, and thank you for spending time with them, by the way, because that does not just mean the world to them. I think you learn in a different way truly what their needs are.

One was carrying around two radios that probably weighed five to seven pounds each. I said, "Why are you carrying two radios?" He said, "Well, this one is an old one that does not really work, but this one is even older than that, that does not have some of the channels this one has. But I have to carry two of them to cover all my basis. I wish we could get the newer one. Then I could put both of these down, and it weighs half as much."

So this guy is walking around with his belt filled with not only all of his other equipment but also these radios, and it is that we cannot afford to buy him a new radio, that was already released 5 to 10 years ago, but we have not upgraded for these individuals.

Some of that stuff could be addressed and is very important for us to do so.

Senator LANKFORD. Thank you. Thanks for paying attention to that, as well. That is going to be vital for us in the days ahead.

Just a quick comment on a couple of things. Our team has reached out to your team. There were a lot of things that the previous administration would never turn over to us. We are doing some investigations to try to get data, for instance, on the Parole Plus programs that were done. We could never get any data on

that. We are trying to figure out where are those people, what actually happened to all of them. So we would like to be able to get some of that information.

We have several pending requests with your team, just to be able to get those things. The other thing is, on the FEMA grants, based on the tornadoes and the storms that have come through much of the Midwest, including States like Kentucky and Oklahoma of late, some of the building resilience infrastructure in communities, some of those grants there is a hold on, and we are just trying to be able to figure out the future of that. So just some additional information would help our communities to be able to prepare, as well.

Mr. Chair, thank you.

Secretary NOEM. Absolutely.

Chairman PAUL. Senator Blumenthal.

OPENING STATEMENT OF SENATOR BLUMENTHAL

Senator BLUMENTHAL. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you for being here, Madam Secretary. I am sure you have seen the recent reports that your agency is going to sponsor a reality show, a TV show, in which immigrants would compete for U.S. citizenship. Is DHS seriously vetting a reality show for immigrants to obtain U.S. citizenship? Your spokesperson is quoted in The Wall Street Journal, and I am going to ask that article be in the record,¹ Mr. Chair, if there no objection.

Chairman PAUL. Without objection.

Senator BLUMENTHAL. Saying that, quote, "It is in the very beginning stages of that vetting process. Each proposal undergoes a thorough vetting process prior to denial or approval."

Secretary NOEM. Sir, we have no knowledge of a reality show. There may have been something submitted to the Department, but I did not know anything about this reality show—

Senator BLUMENTHAL. So you confirm that you are not considering it.

Secretary NOEM [continuing]. Until the reporter reached out. We told him we have no knowledge of it. We do not know what he is talking about, and they still printed wrong information.

Senator BLUMENTHAL. Your spokesperson said—

Secretary NOEM. So that article, in fact they had to change it later because they lied so bad and they had us on the record saying I had no knowledge of a reality show, the Department did not. There may have been something submitted somewhere along the line, because there are proposals pitched to the Department. But me and my executive team have no knowledge of a reality show and it is not under consideration.

Senator BLUMENTHAL. I hope that your response is to confirm that you will not do a reality show.

Secretary NOEM. There are no plans whatsoever to do a reality show.

Senator BLUMENTHAL. And that your spokesperson was completely misquoted as saying that it was being vetted at the time.

¹The article referenced by Senator Blumenthal appears in the Appendix on page 64.

Secretary NOEM. That article was completely inaccurate and false. The fact that they printed it when they knew it was false it was a dereliction of their work.

Senator BLUMENTHAL. Let me go to some of the expenditures that your Department is making, \$200 million for an ad campaign fawning over President Trump's supposed accomplishments; \$21 million between January and April for transporting around 400 immigrants to Guantanamo Bay—about half of them were flown back to the United States; \$6 million to El Salvador to imprison 300 individuals in a prison known for grave human rights violations; and many more, including \$1,000 to immigrants wishing to self-deport. I understand one of the planes left within the last 24 hours.

Secretary NOEM. Yes.

Senator BLUMENTHAL. None of these expenditures are in your present budget. Aren't you going to run out of money before the end of this fiscal year? The continuing resolution (CR) does not cover any of them.

Secretary NOEM. No, all the dollars being spent are being utilized as authorized, and appropriately for the situation.

Senator BLUMENTHAL. Well, none of them have been authorized—

Secretary NOEM. And that flight that left yesterday—

Senator BLUMENTHAL [continuing]. So under the continuing resolution, or any other way that we normally authorize monies, you are just spending recklessly, and it would seem wastefully, without authorization. That is against the law.

Secretary NOEM. Senator, I completely disagree with you. I am doing the job that the Secretary of Homeland Security is supposed to be doing, the one that the last Secretary refused to do, that endangered the future of our country.

Senator BLUMENTHAL. You may think you are doing the job—

Secretary NOEM. What I am doing is making sure we are enforcing our laws—

Senator BLUMENTHAL [continuing]. But you operate under—

Secretary NOEM [continuing]. And that people who are here that are criminal, illegal aliens—

Senator BLUMENTHAL [continuing]. Authorization that this Committee provides.

Secretary NOEM [continuing]. Are returned home.

Senator BLUMENTHAL. You think you are doing your job, but you also have a responsibility—

Secretary NOEM. The American people told us to do this job.

Senator BLUMENTHAL [continuing]. To follow the law.

Secretary NOEM. The American people overwhelmingly, in the last election, said, "We want a secure border. We want to make sure that no longer—

Senator BLUMENTHAL. They did not tell you—

Secretary NOEM [continuing]. "Are the scales of justice tipped in the favor of criminals."

Senator BLUMENTHAL [continuing]. To act outside your legal authority and spend money that is not in your budget, authorized by this Congress—

Secretary NOEM. The money is being spent according to how it is authorized appropriately.

Senator BLUMENTHAL [continuing]. Or any other Congress. Let me ask you about the money that is being used to supposedly repatriate Afghan allies, refugees to this country from the Taliban, Ukrainians who have fled here from Russian aggression. Can you confirm that money is being taken from the foreign aid allocation?

Secretary NOEM. Are you talking about the Temporary Protective Status (TPS) Program?

Senator BLUMENTHAL. Correct.

Secretary NOEM. Yes.

Senator BLUMENTHAL. The repatriation supposedly of those individuals here under the Temporary Protective Status Program.

Secretary NOEM. Yes. So we do have thousands of individuals that are here that have been participating in the TPS Program. That has been reevaluated to see if that program is still being utilized the way that it is supposed to be, as intended by Congress when it was laid out.

Senator BLUMENTHAL. But there are documents that have been publicly reported that say the Administration is going to use money from the Foreign Aid Program, AID, to send those people back to countries where they will be persecuted, tortured and perhaps killed.

Secretary NOEM. We are encouraging—

Senator BLUMENTHAL [continuing]. That the Afghan allies would be—let me finish my question, ma'am.

Secretary NOEM. Sure.

Senator BLUMENTHAL. Where they will be potentially killed, tortured, Afghan allies who served us during our wars there, saved lives of American soldiers and diplomats, are going to be sent back to the Taliban using foreign aid money. Can you confirm that is the plan that has been reported in The Washington Post this morning?

Secretary NOEM. No, I will not confirm that because that is not true. Those individuals have an opportunity to apply for asylum and other programs where they will be protected if their lives are in danger from the government that is in their country.

Senator BLUMENTHAL. There is a plan to send back anyone who can't—

Chairman PAUL. The time has expired. Senator Moody.

OPENING STATEMENT OF SENATOR MOODY

Senator MOODY. Thank you, Mr. Chair, and welcome. Thank you for being here.

Secretary NOEM. Thank you.

Senator MOODY. I think I can speak for everyone in this room and everyone in this country that you are a welcome addition as the head of DHS. In fact, you heard time and time again, from everybody that has been questioning you, they sought repeatedly documents from that agency. I litigated, as Florida's Attorney General (AG), against DHS and Secretary Mayorkas, and sought documents. As part of that—and I hate that it took litigation to uncover what I believe was the most destructive cover-up in our nation's history.

But I uncovered plans by DHS when the border was overrun to just step back and let everybody come in and facilitate that, plans to push quotas into the interior daily, plans to build illegal pro-

grams to bring more and more people directly here from out of our country here, plans to illegally release people into the United States that had been brought here for prosecution, solely for prosecution for drug crimes from outside our country, and when they finished their decades-long prison sentence as drug traffickers, instead of historically as they would have been deported they put them back into the community in which they were prosecuted and released them.

The premeditated calculation that went into destroying our borders and pushing barely vetted, oftentimes dangerous people into this Nation, I believe was something that we will look back on as a nation and say that was the moment, as a country, we stopped taking seriously protecting the sovereignty of our Nation, our security, and making sure, first and foremost, we were keeping an eye on the plans of our enemies and the weaknesses that we had as a country.

I cannot thank you enough for stepping up and coming back to work, coming to D.C., having been home in your State, coming back to the swamp to try and reverse the damage that was done. In fact, we have been talking a lot about cover-ups and things that were kept from the American people in the last administration. Your predecessor sat here and testified to Congress, time and time again, while I was busy litigating as an AG, uncovering the real plans, "The border is secure. The border is secure. The border is secure." Time and time again he lied.

In terms of someone that needs to be held accountable for perjuring themselves, it is not just about not providing information. It is about lying to the American people, as he systematically made our country weaker and put their lives and their families in danger. I think that is abhorrent. I cannot believe a person was allowed to be trusted with the responsibility he was given, and I am so glad that you are willing to be here and take questions and provide documents about that.

The Coast Guard is one of the things I think you said in your testimony, it has been neglected for years. Our service is outmanned. We need cutters. I can tell you, in Florida, under the last administration, we kept seeing people, many times criminals, coming to our shores. We are a maritime border, obviously. We had to surge resources. Thankfully, President Trump came in on day one and asked that we do that so we were able to surge resources there.

But I just wanted to give you some sort of example. In the last year we saw 13,500 illegal aliens stopped from entering Florida, almost 700 vessels that we kept from coming onto shore. It is so important that we get the Coast Guard cutters, get those ships built, ramp up assets. Thank you for that commitment. I am concerned that we might, and trying to do that.

Quickly, much needed, that we give foreign nations or companies outside the United States contracts. Do I have your word you will look at how we can readily increase our Coast Guard assets, like our Coast Guard cutters, but using American businesses?

Secretary NOEM. Absolutely. That is one of the things that Force Design 2028 focuses on, is making sure that we are building those kinds of partnership to meet the needs that the Coast Guard has.

I would say our greatest asset is our people. I am so thrilled with the fact that Coast Guard recruitment is at 108 percent of its recruitment goal, just because of the excitement to serve in a fleet that gets to do its mission again, and recognizes that it has been neglected for too long. But there is a focus and a recognition of the important work that they do.

Senator MOODY. And certainly Florida has participated a lot with partnering not only with Texas, at our Southern border—we sent assets there—but we are ramping up our own assets to complement what was not provided to us in the last administration. Thank you for your dedication to making sure that is provided to us so we can secure our own maritime border. I appreciate that.

Secretary NOEM. Absolutely. Thank you.

Chairman PAUL. Perfect five minutes. Thank you. Senator Kim.

OPENING STATEMENT OF SENATOR KIM

Senator KIM. Thank you, Mr. Chair, Madam Secretary. A press release came out from the Department of Homeland Security a couple of days ago. It said that Members of Congress in New Jersey that went to the Delaney Hall U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Detention Facility, quote, “could have just scheduled a tour.” I guess I would just like to hear from you, if you can confirm that you understand that Members of Congress, by law, are allowed to show up unannounced to conduct oversight visits of ICE detention facilities.

Secretary NOEM. Yes. They can conduct oversight, but Senator, what I would ask is that they understand that that does not mean they can show up with a mob, with the intention to break in and assault law enforcement officers. That is what happened at Delaney Hall last week.

Senator KIM. You are familiar with—

Secretary NOEM. Those individuals and those Members of Congress were surrounded by criminals, creating criminal and perpetuating criminal acts.

Senator KIM. You understand that they were already within the facility.

Secretary NOEM. When you show up and ask for a tour we facilitated every single tour that every Member of Congress has wanted. We have always done that. And we have to, when we have a tour, also make sure that we have addressed security concerns and have enough staff and all of that, and we were accommodating that when those individuals showed up, and they decided instead to break in.

Senator KIM. You know that they were already on the ICE premise, already facilitating into having the tour, when they arrested the mayor. They were not breaking into—

Secretary NOEM. They had broken through the outer fence, and they were in the interior, on Federal property, when a crime was committed.

Senator KIM. They were invited in by ICE, as ICE was preparing to give them a tour.

Secretary NOEM. That does not give them an excuse to start punching law enforcement officers.

Senator KIM. But you understand that they were not storming the fence.

Secretary NOEM. Well, I do not understand. Are you making excuses for their behavior that day?

Senator KIM. I am just trying to clarify what exactly happened.

Secretary NOEM. Oversight is an important part of what Congress does and what you provide to our Department, and we welcome it. We give tours when Members of Congress ask for it. We just ask that they not be politicized, that they actually are there to provide the oversight that is needed to ensure that we are doing due diligence in our job.

Senator KIM. If I were to show up at an ICE detention facility unannounced, I would be let in.

Secretary NOEM. Yes. I would ask that you would allow us to secure the officers that we need to give you an appropriate tour, that we would be able to cover the other bases and posts that they would have to leave to come and facilitate that. We may have to call other people in to help cover, because of the extra responsibilities, but we can do that.

Senator KIM. I have done this before. I just wanted to make sure I heard that from you.

I wanted to just go back to something that was raised earlier about habeas corpus. Can you confirm to us that you understand that any suspension of habeas corpus requires an act of Congress?

Secretary NOEM. President Lincoln executed habeas corpus in the past, with retroactive action by Congress. I believe that any President that was able to do that in the past, it should be afforded to our current-day President. This President has never said he is going to do this. He has never communicated to me or his Administration that they are going to consider suspending habeas corpus. But I do think the Constitution allows them the right to consider it.

Senator KIM. How many times has habeas corpus been suspended in our country?

Secretary NOEM. Once that I know of.

Senator KIM. Four times.

Secretary NOEM. I am not certain if those—

Senator KIM. The instance that you are referring to is one where the court subsequently showed that Congress is the one that has the ability. Do you know what section of the Constitution the suspension clause of habeas corpus is in?

Secretary NOEM. I do not, no.

Senator KIM. Do you know which article it is in?

Secretary NOEM. No, I do not, sir.

Senator KIM. Article I. Do you know which branch of government Article I outlines the tasks and the responsibilities for?

Secretary NOEM. Yes.

Senator KIM. Which one?

Secretary NOEM. Congress.

Senator KIM. Yes. Stephen Miller has said that he is actively considering that there is active consideration of habeas corpus. Have you had a conversation with Stephen Miller about suspending habeas corpus?

Secretary NOEM. I have not.

Senator KIM. When it comes to FEMA, this is something that I am concerned about, being from New Jersey. We have had challenges with Superstorm Sandy and others in the past. I was alarmed when I saw some reports that the acting head, Richardson, said last Thursday that he is about 80 to 85 percent done with the hurricane season plan, given that we are just days away from hurricane season beginning.

I just wanted to ask you, is he done with his hurricane preparedness plan?

Secretary NOEM. He is working diligently with the employees at FEMA and are prepared for hurricane season. What you referenced—

Senator KIM. Have you seen this plan?

Secretary NOEM. Yes. I have been actively engaged in the hurricane response and preparation. We are prestaging people, prestaging equipment, and we are making sure that we have table-top exercises. We are running through with all of our regions on what their response will be. It has been very extensive how we have laid out this plan.

Senator KIM. Will you be able to share that plan with this Committee?

Secretary NOEM. I will check and make sure that I can.

Senator KIM. Yes, if you could check on that.

Secretary NOEM I would think that we would be able to do that. I cannot see any reason that that would be.

Senator KIM. Just one last thing. A couple of weeks ago you said that you were considering restarting in-person training at the National Fire Academy. I just wanted to ask if you are prepared to tell this Committee that you are moving forward with restarting in-person trainings.

Secretary NOEM. Yes. The plan is to do that again.

Senator KIM. That has been approved to restart it?

Secretary NOEM. Yes, it has been.

Senator KIM. OK, thank you, and with that I yield back.

Chairman PAUL. Senator Scott.

OPENING STATEMENT OF SENATOR SCOTT

Senator SCOTT. Thank you, Mr. Chair. First, thanks, Secretary Noem, for being here today. I want to take this opportunity to thank you and President Trump for returning the Department of Homeland Security to its core mission of securing the homeland and making communities safe again.

We had an increase in threats under Biden and a completely open border. You have prioritized our border. Daily border encounters have plunged 95 percent since President Trump took office. Is that correct?

Secretary NOEM. That is correct.

Senator SCOTT. You are finishing the border wall, and in 100 days DHS already has 85 miles of new construction either planned or under construction. Does that sound right?

Secretary NOEM. That is correct, yes.

Senator SCOTT. The Trump administration has reunited nearly 5,000 unaccompanied children with a safe relative or guardian

after the Biden administration completely lost track of over 300,000 of these vulnerable minors. Does that sound right?

Secretary NOEM. That is correct.

Senator SCOTT. The United States Customs and Border Protection and the U.S. Coast Guard have seized nearly 232,000 pounds of fentanyl and other illicit drugs, stopping them from ever reaching American communities or Florida shores. Sound right?

Secretary NOEM. That is correct.

Senator SCOTT. And you are bringing accountability to the agency. It is incredible what we can do with a willing partner like you and President Trump, who actually want a secure border and enforce our laws.

Secretary Mayorkas testified repeatedly before this Committee and lied to my face saying that our border was secure. Clearly it was not. Worst, the Biden administration dismantled every process and system we had in place to secure the border and allowed millions of illegal aliens, including hundreds of known terrorists, to come into our country unchecked and unvetted, wreaking havoc and bringing drugs. They were welcomed into our country by Mayorkas and the Biden administration.

Secretary Noem, you have been working for months to fix the mess your predecessor left behind. Is the border secure?

Secretary NOEM. Yes, it is.

Senator SCOTT. Besides additional resources, what would you clearly need, what legislation fixes do you need from Congress to maintain a secure border?

Secretary NOEM. Senator, thank you for the question. This border is the most secure border that we have ever had in the history of the United States of America. But what we need to do is address that are still vulnerable, and those areas require technology, wall infrastructure, more individuals, at time, we need surveillance equipment, camera equipment to be fixed. Only one out of three CBP cameras are really functional right now.

So the reconciliation package is incredibly important for us to have the resources we need at the border but also to make sure that CBP can continue to do their work that they at our ports of entry (POEs), assessing tariffs and collecting duties, all of that. But beyond that, reconciliation has needed assets for other areas of our national security portfolio.

The fact of the matter is that the Department of Homeland Security is one of the largest agencies with one of the smallest budgets, and the task that we have taken on has gotten more and more complicated all the time. As things move online, cybersecurity bad actors get more sophisticated. Now we have let these dangerous terrorists and cartel members into our country, in the interior of our country, that threaten the American public. They need to be removed and taken out, and we are fighting a court system, at times, as well.

So that reconciliation package makes sure that we are able to do due diligence in the work that we do and really assure the American people that we are on watch for them.

Beyond that, Remain in Mexico policy to be codified would be incredibly important, to make sure we have stability in that policy going forward. Some clarity and credible fear would be wonderful

to have if this body would choose to tackle that. That would help us not have to deal consistently with court challenges and tie us up fighting that battle when we really should be addressing security concerns.

Senator SCOTT. Miami is one of the 11 U.S. cities hosting matches for the upcoming World Cup. Can you discuss how DHS is preparing for that, how DHS is working with the State and locals to make sure they have everything they need for a successful and secure event?

Secretary NOEM. Yes. We are working diligently with FIFA and other entities to ensure that cities and States have the assets that they need. This will be an unprecedented world event. It will take place in three different countries and many cities across our country but also Mexico and Canada. It will take place over a month. It is the equivalent to 10 different Super Bowls, and we will, at times, have 11 different matches going on in the country on the same day. And making sure we are supporting security operations in all of these cities is imperative.

So having conversations now. There are meetings happening almost every single day between our Department, the White House, the Federal Government, and FIFA, and these cities to ensure that we have the protocols in place, the guidelines in place, universal approach to how they are going to be applied, and then what we can do to secure not just the ground and territory and access to these events but also the airspace above it. We need counter-drone technology. We need to have jurisdiction to be able to make sure that we are dealing with those threats as they present themselves, but also make sure that we have the men and women that are trained and prepared to secure them going forward.

It will be safe, and it will be secure. It is a lot of work because we have never done anything like this before, though.

Senator SCOTT. Thank you for all your hard work and your team.

Secretary NOEM. Thank you. I appreciate it.

Chairman PAUL. Senator Slotkin.

OPENING STATEMENT OF SENATOR SLOTKIN

Senator SLOTKIN. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you for being here. You know, Michigan is a border State so we need each other. We have a very big bridge that is being inaugurated, ribbon cut, in September. We need that to be fully staffed. We have a lot going on in Michigan as a Northern border State, so we need each other.

But what I am concerned about is that you have taken the mandate to close off the border beyond going after, as you say, the, “most dangerous illegal immigrants.” I am a Central Intelligence Administration (CIA) officer. I worked my entire life to protect the homeland. If someone is here illegally, they need to not be here. They have committed a crime by being here, they need to go back to wherever they are from.

But my concern is that either through sloppiness or intent, you have gone far beyond going after the, “most dangerous illegal immigrants” and gone into legal immigrants who were given the ability to be here, and even American citizens. When I think about that, there are lots of people in this country, including me, who have families who fled this kind of environment where they have no

rights, where they have no due process, where they do not have habeas corpus.

While I will be the first to say, coming from a State that was won by Trump, that there is a mandate to do something about the border, I think it is absolutely dangerous overreach to go beyond that and start picking up American citizens and people who have the legal right to be here, lawful immigrants who have done everything right.

So first and foremost, do you acknowledge that your Department has made some mistakes, any mistakes, in going after either American citizens or legal immigrants here, in the time that you have been in office?

Secretary NOEM. We have not deported any U.S. citizens.

Senator SLOTKIN. Detained?

Secretary NOEM. People get interviewed. If they get interviewed and they go through that process and we find that they are U.S. citizens or legal immigrants, they stay in the United States. We have to go through a vetting process.

Senator SLOTKIN. Have any American citizens, including children, been deported during your time in office?

Secretary NOEM. We have children that mothers have chosen to keep with them, so those—

Senator SLOTKIN. By my count you have 10 American citizens, including children with cancer, who have been deported out of the country. I understand you are saying it is their choice.

Secretary NOEM. But the mother—

Senator SLOTKIN. It is hard to imagine a small child having a choice. But have you gone after legal immigrants? Again, your standard, in your opening statement, was the most dangerous illegal immigrants. Does that include Ph.D. students and master's students at colleges across the country, unarmed? Are they the most dangerous illegal when they have status and no weapons?

Secretary NOEM. I do not decide who gets status through a student program. The Department of State decides that and we enforce it.

Senator SLOTKIN. Oh, come on.

Secretary NOEM. That is what our Department of Homeland Security does.

Senator SLOTKIN. I just would offer this.

Secretary NOEM. Those student programs—

Senator SLOTKIN. Again, I have no qualms with going after folks who are here illegally. That is not my concern. That was part of my job was to prevent people from coming here illegally, in a former life. My concern is you are sending a chill down the spine of America by going after people who either have legal status or American citizens. When my colleagues asked you about habeas corpus, and you said, literally—we can review the tape—that you believe it is right the President has, you sat here in front of all of us and swore an oath to the Constitution, and that is not at all what habeas corpus is. It is a right that we all get, that American citizens get, that people who are in the United States legally have.

My concern is it is complete overreach. I do not think American citizens, even those who voted for Trump, believe that you should be able to just grab someone off the street, sloppy, who has the

legal right to be here and certainly an American citizen. I just am concerned that while you say you are going after the most dangerous folks, what you are actually doing is going after folks for political reasons, right? A Ph.D. student is not—

Secretary NOEM. We are absolutely not doing that. We are not deporting U.S. citizens, and we are not deporting people who have legal status here.

Senator SLOTKIN. Well, 10 American citizens have been deported.

Secretary NOEM. If children have gone with their parents it is because their parents wanted them with them.

Senator SLOTKIN. Let me ask you another question about cybersecurity. You have cut \$500 million from the budget. What specific programs are you cutting? Because there are programs that really aid States and locals, that we depend on for cybersecurity. We know that right now, while we may have good security in the Federal Government, if you are a local State official, you are depending on the Federal Government. So have you cut the ISAC program, the program to States and locals on cybersecurity?

Secretary NOEM. The President's recommended budget has a reduction in \$491 million.

Senator SLOTKIN. Does it cut that program? I have heard the talking point.

Secretary NOEM. What it is doing is putting CISA back on mission. And it is ensuring that—

Senator SLOTKIN. You cannot say that—

Secretary NOEM [continuing]. Cybersecurity is going to be strengthened.

Senator SLOTKIN. You cannot say it is the most cyber secure administration if you are cutting the program to my State, and to your State. If you look on record, that is what you have cut. I yield back.

Chairman PAUL. The time has expired. Senator Hawley.

OPENING STATEMENT OF SENATOR HAWLEY

Senator HAWLEY. Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. Secretary Noem, good to see you. Welcome. Congratulations on securing the border in a record amount of time. The last administration came and sat where you are sitting for four years and told us it could not be done, the border was just an intractable problem, it would take years to do it. You did it in the space of, really, 30 days, and now the United States' Southern border is secure. So thank you for your tremendous work on that.

I want to begin, however, with the situation in St. Louis, which I am sure you are aware of. On Friday afternoon and evening, major storms ripped through the St. Louis area, as well as southeast Missouri. I am going to put a picture¹ up over my shoulder here. An F-3 tornado cut right through North St. Louis. What you are seeing here is pretty typical, I am sad to say, of the damage. We lost five people in St. Louis. We lost another two in Scott County, which is down in southeast Missouri, there to the south, a couple of hours south of the city.

¹The picture referenced by Senator Hawley appears in the Appendix on page 63.

I spent much of the day yesterday just walking these neighborhoods and talking to residents, and this, what you are seeing over my shoulder, is what these neighborhoods all look like. These are areas that families have lived here—in some cases, I talked to one individual, one gentleman, and he said that his family had been there since his great-grandmother came to that neighborhood in 1919. So it is that kind of a community, and they are totally devastated.

Yesterday afternoon, my Governor requested an emergency disaster declaration to expedite FEMA funds to help the State just cleanup, I mean, just cleanup the kind of rubble now that you are seeing behind me.

You have been a Governor, until very recently. You know how important this is. Can we get your help to expedite the consideration of that request? Again, it was just made yesterday. We need it as quickly as possible. Will you help us expedite that?

Secretary NOEM. Yes, absolutely. I have spoken with your Governor and did the day that this devastation happened. We have promised and pledged to get that expedited as soon as possible for him, so he can have the resources that he needs to respond to his people. That is one of the failures that FEMA has had in the past, is that people that incur this kind of damage and lose everything, then they sit there for months, sometimes years, and never get the promised critical response that they believe they should be getting from the Federal Government. That is why President Trump believes that this agency needs to be dramatically reformed.

Senator HAWLEY. I am glad to hear you say that, and you are exactly right. We have had this situation in Missouri in years past, where we have had individuals who have qualified for FEMA aid, including individual assistance. In some cases they have been awarded the assistance, and then FEMA has come in and clawed it back, or never paid it out, or never sent teams to help.

So to have your commitment to expedite this is tremendous. That will be welcome news to the residents of St. Louis. We also have, the State has, pending three requests for major disaster declarations from earlier storms. We have lost over a dozen people. Actually, if you count the folks we lost just on Friday, we have lost almost 20 people now in major storms, just in the last two months in Missouri. It has been a terrible spring for us.

Here again, can I ask for your help? Will you commit to helping, for those three major disaster declaration requests that are pending, will you help expedite those, Secretary Noem, and get those in front of the President, get those approved? We are desperate for the assistance in Missouri.

Secretary NOEM. Yes, absolutely.

Senator HAWLEY. Thank you.

Secretary NOEM. I will make sure that application gets to the White House as soon as possible.

Senator HAWLEY. Fantastic. Thank you. Can I also have your commitment that if and when the President approves a major disaster declaration for this storm that just happened on Friday in St. Louis, will you expedite, as much as possible, FEMA individual assistance for those who qualify for it in the St. Louis area?

Secretary NOEM. Yes.

Senator HAWLEY. I want to tell you just how important that is, because as I toured these streets and walked and talked to the residents, what I heard over and over is many of these folks do not have insurance. Many of these folks, they either got their homes from a family member or they bought them from a family member so they do not have a mortgage on the property and therefore they do not have homeowner insurance.

So as you know, having been a Governor, in many instances FEMA assistance is going to be the only assistance that they are going to get. I just had a hearing in this Committee and our Subcommittee, Senator Kim and I last week, where we talked to major insurance companies who routinely scam people by refusing to pay out the full policy awards that they are due. I know we are going to be fighting that in Missouri. We have got to have the Federal Government, where there is individual assistance that people qualify for, we have to have people be able to get that. Otherwise, we are never going to be able to rebuild these neighborhoods.

So you just committed, I think, to expediting that. I appreciate that. Thank you for your help in all of this.

Secretary NOEM. Thank you.

Senator HAWLEY. Then the last thing I will say is, can you commit, also, to making sure that the FEMA communication, with the State and with individuals, is open, is clear, is transparent? You referenced the fact that FEMA is notorious for giving bad information, for slow-walking residents, for confusing intake forms that nobody knows how to fill out, for not getting back to people.

Can you commit to, as we deal with this disaster in St. Louis and others around the State, that under your leadership FEMA is going to act with expedition, they are going to be clear in their communications, and they are going to follow up and give people the awards that they need if they qualify for it.

Secretary NOEM. Yes. That has been the biggest challenge of FEMA in the past, is just the delayed response. People are counting on the assistance and it never comes through. The paperwork is too complicated for an individual many times to complete on their own. They need help and assistance. So that is part of the reforms that the FEMA Review Council will be undertaking, and we have people that are our frontline responders across the country that are serving on that council. We will take your insight, as well. But we will continue to expedite what we can with the framework we have in front of us, but do better diligence than the last administration on how we take care of people.

Senator HAWLEY. Fantastic. Everything you said today is going to be very welcome news in St. Louis and the rest of Missouri this morning. Thank you for being here. Thank you for your service.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman PAUL. Senator Fetterman.

OPENING STATEMENT OF SENATOR FETTERMAN

Senator FETTERMAN. Thank you. Secretary, hi. Hello. As you may know, I am from Pennsylvania. I occupy perhaps a unique position. I have been very pro-immigration, but I early identified the serious problem about the border, the security. I have said this publicly, and I will say it now, that my party failed to secure our border,

and we deserve to pay a political price for that. I have been trying to move forward on those things.

I voted for you, not because you and I agree on a lot of political things and we are in different parties, but you are the Secretary and I am a Member of this Committee, so I believe we have to find a way to work forward together. I am not here for fireworks or to try to create like something to be clipped on TV. I am honestly coming and asking for your help about a situation here.

So now, I have a constituent. His name is Ramin. He is an Afghani who served alongside our servicemembers there in the war. He is a resident of Philadelphia. Now he is a surgeon, and he saved American lives, and now he is waiting to be approved, like a green card. He helped evacuate our forces through an airlift. And his two brothers, of course, we cannot name them due to their concerns, but they are trapped in Pakistan, and the risk for removal for Afghanistan, they face torture and death because of their commitment for a free and democratic Afghanistan. They have saved American lives, and they have defended our forces.

And now, here, that is part of my concern right now, and I am looking for help, honestly, and that is one of the reasons why I voted for you, because we want to try and find a way, because not all immigration is just about securing our border. We know. But it is about helping people that deserve to come to our nation after serving in such an amazing, great risk.

So there is the President's Executive Order suspending refugee resettlement, but again, they kind of got caught up in the middle of that. Honestly, I am not here looking for the theater. I am just here to come because I think I believe they deserve to be here for the sacrifices and what they have put at risk. I am asking if we are able to get some kind of working with my office, please, to find a way to bring these Afghani heroes, that saved American lives during that war, because things maybe got caught up in these Executive Orders. So that is really all I am asking today.

Secretary NOEM. Yes, Senator, we will certainly work with your office on those specific cases. We have 8,000 individuals that have been granted asylum since President Trump has been in office, looking at cases much like you have. These individuals that are here, that may have been on a different program like TPS that is no longer going to be in place in a couple of months, we have the opportunity to work with them to get them qualified.

Many of the concerns with some of these countries, when you are talking about interacting with them and giving them status and green cards here in the United States, is the ability to vet them. It sounds like the individuals that you know have been thoroughly vetted and in partnership with the United States. So that is something that we will look at and we will certainly work with you on, recognizing their service to our country.

Senator FETTERMAN. Yes. I would be profoundly grateful if my office can work with your team and perhaps even with State, as well, too. So that is all this is about, too. It is a political truth that we have to find a way to work together, because there are truths and it is not owned by one side or the other.

I look forward to finding a solution here. Thank you. I yield.
Secretary NOEM. Thank you, sir.

Chairman PAUL. Senator Moreno.

OPENING STATEMENT OF SENATOR MORENO

Senator MORENO. Secretary Noem, thank you for being here. Thank you for your work. I just want to reiterate for the record, 93 percent drop in border encounters. Is that accurate?

Secretary NOEM. That is correct.

Senator MORENO. Are you aware that during the Biden-Harris administration we had 4,000 aliens that died along the journey to come to America?

Secretary NOEM. I was not aware of that specific number, but it does not surprise me. It is a dangerous trip.

Senator MORENO. It is a dangerous trip. The Darién Gap, which is right near where I was born, in Colombia, went from being a supposedly uncrossable border to hundreds of thousands of people making that journey. Who benefited from our open borders policy under Biden?

Secretary NOEM. Oh, I would say Joe Biden certainly did.

Senator MORENO. And the drug cartels that made tens of billions of dollars.

Secretary NOEM. Yes.

Senator MORENO. And who was the victim? Certainly American citizens.

Secretary NOEM. American citizens, but those who chose to come to our country at that time, believing that they could come without any consequences.

Senator MORENO. Obviously the drug cartels are drug cartels, that became human traffickers, at scale, and used that human trafficking as a disguise to allow illegal fentanyl to come into our country. What has been the ramifications of that? What have you seen firsthand when you go to the border? What do the agents tell you about the fentanyl that is coming across the border?

Secretary NOEM. It is devastating. Luckily, we have the ability now to enforce our laws with this President, and fentanyl traffic has been down 54 percent since he has been in office, because of that.

Unfortunately, what is happening is these cartels, foreign terrorist organizations, are now moving to our maritime borders. They are moving and getting much more sophisticated. So we need to adapt and have the resources to be able to interdict them before they come in and kill off our next generation of Americans.

Senator MORENO. Yes. It is not hyperbole to say that tens of thousands of Americans have not been killed with fentanyl because of the drop.

Secretary NOEM. Correct. Absolutely.

Senator MORENO. It is important to just reflect, not for political reasons but just for moral reasons, to say that what happened over the last four years is just despicable. We should never have allowed that to happen. There was no outcry about the situation, and yet it was allowed to happen.

Now, it is a lot easier to enter America than it is to be deported from America. Can you talk about that for a minute?

Secretary NOEM. That is true. When you have a President in the White House that is openly saying our laws will not be enforced

and is facilitating this invasion that happened over our Southern border, we had millions of people come, and not just people looking for new opportunities and the American Dream. You had people coming that were criminals, murderers, rapists, traffickers, terrorists. Now to remove them is much more complicated, difficult, and expensive. For us to deport someone, that we have to go out and find that individual, arrest and detain them and remove them from the country, it costs upwards to \$17,000, if there aren't more delays than the normal process.

That is why we are encouraging people to self-deport. If you are here illegally, we recognize that you may have been here for a period of time. But if you want to leave and have the chance to come back someday, leave on your own. We will facilitate that. We will buy you a plane ticket. When you land we will give you \$1,000 that you can get started with and provide for your family. That cost of self-deportation is \$4,500. So much cheaper for the American taxpayer in how we make sure that we really are following our laws, and that the people here in this country, the American citizens, are treated with respect that they are due, by coming here through the legal process and being a part of our future.

Senator MORENO. Yes, I think it is just important, and I hope my colleagues, especially on the other side of the aisle—I look at Senator Gallego whose family came here from another country, his mom from Colombia, his dad from Mexico—that we honor and respect those of us like myself, my five brothers, my sister, my mom and dad, that followed the legal process, which, by the way, is hard. It is a privilege to come to America. It is not easy. You have to go through a process.

But over the last four years, what we did is we made it so that if you hired a drug cartel, brought you to the border, and then raised your hand when you got to the Border Patrol and said, “Asylum,” or “Asilo, asilo,” that that got you a free ticket into the country, free housing, free health care, free education, to the detriment of Americans. I think that should be something we unite about. Senator Fetterman talked about asylum seekers. Those are not asylum seekers. They are people who want a better life. They are economic migrants, and we empathize for them. But we have to have a process that we honor the people who are following the rules.

For example, the Afghanis that he is talking about, well, they have to wait in line behind millions of fake asylum claims, and I think we have to, once and for all, acknowledge that this the case.

I was proud to introduce something called the Refugees Using Legal Entry Safety Act (RULES Act). Unfortunately, the Democrats blocked that very commonsense bill, which would have said, hey, if you come across our border illegally and claim asylum you cannot claim asylum at an undesignated port of entry, and you are immediately returned. That is something that is commonsense.

I want to ask you just a few other just technical questions.

Chairman PAUL. Time. We are going to do another round in just a few minutes.

Senator MORENO. OK. Do you mind if I just ask one quick question?

Chairman PAUL. One quick question.

Senator MORENO. OK. I want to just encourage you to continue to do what you are doing, which is to enforce the law, which is that the agencies within DHS purchase products in the United States of America. I applaud you for doing that.

Secretary NOEM. Yes, thank you for that.
Chairman PAUL. Senator Gallego.

OPENING STATEMENT OF SENATOR GALLEGGO

Senator GALLEGGO. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you, Secretary Noem, for attending today. Let me start by also agreeing with Senator Moreno on some things, and I think it is positive that the Trump administration has provided stronger border security to keep illegal border crossings as close to zero as possible. We definitely have seen that in Arizona.

My concern is it is not sustainable. It is expensive. That is why I recently released a commonsense border security that would make it sustainable and would actually do it over long-term solutions.

But let me get to my first question. Your Department is overspending right now. It is on track to run out of money again by mid-July to support a mass deportation campaign that cannot be afforded. At the same time, though, you recently requested a \$50 million allotment for a private Gulfstream jet. That is \$50 million of taxpayer money to subsidize some of your national tours that you have been going on.

Meanwhile Republicans are about to kick another 13 million people off Medicaid to fund taxes for the rich on the backs of working class Americans. How can you justify spending \$50 million on a jet while your Department is definitely overspending and Republicans in Congress are about to strip off healthcare from millions of Americans?

Secretary NOEM. Senator, thank you for the question. We are spending our dollars appropriately and will be on budget. With reference to the airframe, that was the requested dollars were put in for, that is for the Coast Guard. It is to replace an existing jet that is over 20 years old and is beyond its usable hours. The Coast Guard for many years has been neglected and has many airframes that have been grounded because they cannot even be maintained anymore. The suppliers, that give us parts and repairs and maintenance for them, have said that they will no longer support that kind of a mission.

We have cutters that have not been completed, that have not been deployed out across the world, and then we also beyond that are asking for a request to build out the number of Coast Guard members that we need in place. We are asking for 1,500 more to complete the mission.

Senator GALLEGGO. Are you going to have access to that \$50 million Gulfstream jet that the Coast Guard is going to supply?

Secretary NOEM. The Coast Guard will use that jet exactly how it uses the jets that it has today, exactly in the same manner that it uses the ones it has in place today.

Senator GALLEGGO. Would you consistently be using it to travel?

Secretary NOEM. I do not know if I would use that one or if I would use the other one. I have no idea. But I do spend time out

there with our components, making sure that they are, know that they have a Secretary that is engaged with them that is visiting with them, seeing what their needs are. No sir, they are not photos. They have meant the world to the individuals at the Department of Homeland Security.

Senator GALLEG. We have seen the Instagram photos. I have seen some of them especially some really bad weapons handling.

Secretary NOEM. They have meant the world to our ICE agents, our border agents, who ask me to be out there with them so we know what their lives are like.

Senator GALLEG. Speaking of that, talking to some law enforcement besides those under DHS, we have also seen some law enforcements that have been pulled away from investigations, such as child porn, sex trafficking. We have had some agents pulled in that were doing investigations on bank fraud that are now provisional ICE agents. I think creating and making them do this type of work is also making us more and more dangerous because they are not actually doing these long-term investigations.

On the other hand, I have talked to some border chiefs and sheriffs repeatedly, and they have been highlighting the danger associated with cartels targeting teenagers in border communities through social media apps, and recruiting them to participate in smuggling operations. One of the bills I introduced with several colleagues here, actually, is the Combating Cartels on Social Media Act, which will help DHS counter this threat.

Arizona communities cannot wait for the legislative process to play out on this. What is DHS doing to solve this problem and help keep American children and communities safe from cartel criminal activity, and recruitment too.

Secretary NOEM. That is the problem that we have. The longer that they are here the more established they become and the more they recruit individuals who may live in this country, U.S. citizens or even our kids, to be a part of their operations.

Senator GALLEG. Some of them are actually on the other side, too, so it is both sides.

Secretary NOEM. What do you mean, on the other side?

Senator GALLEG. Some of the cartels are using social media on, let's say, Mexico Web.

Secretary NOEM. Yes, definitely they are.

Senator GALLEG. So it is back and forth.

Secretary NOEM. Yes. They definitely are. But they also are infiltrating our country still by recruiting our children to be a part of their network.

Senator GALLEG. That is the problem, yes.

Secretary NOEM. We are working with not just the experts that we have with CBP and ICE but also using our other components to address some of the sophistication that we have seen in these apps, as far as CISA and partnerships that they may have with private industry that can give us insight in what we can do to deploy our own counterterrorism activities and applications to those systems, what we can do to make sure that we are stopping their ability to communicate with our children, and bringing awareness.

The Department of Homeland Security has programs in different areas, such as the Know2Protect and the other programs you may be familiar with.

Senator GALLEG. Have you been able to work directly with the social media companies, though, not just through the legislative process?

Secretary NOEM. We have had conversations with the social media companies.

Senator GALLEG. By the time we get around to doing it we are losing more and more people. So like having a very direct conversation and a concentrated effort to actually have outcomes is going to be quicker, because they have the option to do it. We do not have to come in and do it. They just choose not to because they would rather make more money than anything else.

Secretary NOEM. That may be, but I found them very willing to come to the table. I have had, myself, spent dozens of hours with them, and my team has spent hundreds of hours visiting with them on what we can do to be much more proactive. They have some solutions that we can pursue. We will be coming to you with some of those ideas. But I think it is important that we use their knowledge of this way of communication and recruitment to help protect our children.

Senator GALLEG. I yield back.

Chairman PAUL. Senator Ernst.

OPENING STATEMENT OF SENATOR ERNST

Senator ERNST. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Secretary Noem, thank you very much for being here today. I really appreciate it.

During your confirmation process I had shared a story with you, and it was a heartbreak story about one of my constituents, Sarah Root. Sarah was killed by an illegal immigrant that was drunk driving with three times the blood alcohol content of the legal limit, three times over the limit.

Using a loophole in the Federal law, that killer, he fled the country and he vanished for years. But thanks to your leadership and the work of many of the brave men and women of DHS and the State Department, Sarah's killer was arrested in Honduras in a matter of days—after our conversation, and was extradited back to the United States. He is in Omaha, Nebraska, now, and he is going through the court system there. Believe you and me, Sarah's mother, Michelle Root, her father, Scott Root, and her brother, Scottie Root, thank you, day in and day out, and President Trump for having the wherewithal to follow through to bring her killer to justice. So thank you. Thank you for that.

Secretary NOEM. Thank you for telling Sarah's story. I know you had to for many years. That was the first time Honduras actually extradited someone for homicide. I think it is very important, the precedent we set, the relationship that we built there, so that we are able to get some justice for Sarah's family. Thank you for being passionate about her, and that just proves that telling your story and telling her story does not fall on deaf ears with this Administration.

Senator ERNST. It certainly does not. I want to take this time just to point out the difference in the administrations. After this

killer fled from prosecution in the United States, he was on ICE's Most Wanted List. That was in the Trump administration. When President Biden came into office he actually took this killer, Edwin Mejia, off of the Most Wanted List. They were not actively trying to find him. They did not care about Sarah's plight nor that of her parents.

President Trump came back into office, and again, within that first month of President Trump being in office, and you being sworn in, we had located him in Honduras, and was able to negotiate for the extradition of this killer back to the United States. This family deserves justice, and I am glad that they are getting it. So thank you, Secretary Noem.

Just a few moments ago you said that you have provided the Committee, with "50,000 pages from COVID and the origins." I haven't seen any of those pages yet. Will you commit to ensuring that I am able to see those 50,000 pages?

Secretary NOEM. Yes, certainly. They were given to the Chair at his request, and I will certainly forward those to you, as well.

Chairman PAUL. Yes, and those documents are up, and your staff does have access to them.

Senator ERNST. OK, great. Thank you. I appreciate that. I know that the Biden administration had blocked us from seeing that information, so I think it is really important that those of us on the Committee that have pursued the origins of COVID have the opportunity to review those documents. So thank you.

Just in the remaining time that I have I want to talk a little bit about the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) work that we have going on, and you have been a very good partner with DOGE. I want to commend your recent efficiency. You have enhanced election integrity and you have saved taxpayer dollars. In October 2024, my home State of Iowa uncovered over 2,000 cases of non-citizens registering to vote, or voting, after self-identifying as non-citizens at the Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV). This happens every day, folks.

The previous administration, again, Joe Biden's administration, obstructed Iowa's request for immigrant verification records in the days before our Federal election. This is unacceptable, and I am grateful that you tackled this issue immediately.

Some people may say, "Two thousand people? No big deal." But I will remind you that in one of our congressional districts, in the case of Mariannette Miller-Meeks, who is now a Congresswoman, she won her race by six votes. It matters. Thank you, Secretary Noem, for doing the right thing, and I yield. Thank you.

Chairman PAUL. Thank you. We are going to try to do a quick round of five minutes, one more time. I am going to gavel at five minutes so the Secretary knows, everybody knows that is the end and we are going to try to move on to the next person to get you out of here.

We talked a little bit about the wall earlier. The Administration has asked for \$46.5 billion for the wall. The border on the Mexican border is about 1,950 miles. We have fenced or walled about 700 of it. That leaves about \$1,200 miles. There are 200 or 300 miles of it that probably are never going to have a fence on it. It is mountainous or just impossible to fence or wall.

I would say, realistically, you have under 1,000. But let's say just there are 1,000. You really want a wall on 1,000. CBP says it is \$6.5 million per mile. Your response today was \$12 million per mile. That means \$12 billion for 1,000. We are off here by a factor of three or four, with \$46 billion. Where is the rest of the \$46 billion? The Administration says they want \$46 billion for a wall. You could pave all of it and still have \$34 billion left over. What is the \$34 billion going for?

Secretary NOEM. Yes, Senator, thank you for the question. We do have 702 miles of wall today, and 598 of that are steel. The rest of that is temporary that is in place. Since the President has been in office, over 70 miles has been erected. We have 11 contracts that have gone out and allocated. We also have five more that are pending.

Based on the dollars that have been requested it is not just the infrastructure that would be built. It would be the actual wall construction. It would be also surveillance equipment—

Chairman PAUL. The number is way off. You can do 1,000 miles for \$12 billion. You are asking for \$46 billion. I am one who is not impressed and would have to see more detail as to where the rest of the money is going. We cannot just throw \$30 billion out there and say things cost a lot.

Secretary NOEM. I agree. We will get you the specifics on that.

Chairman PAUL. With regard to the drones and all the preparatory work that DHS does and the government does for the NFL and for FIFA, does NFL play DHS for the work you do?

Secretary NOEM. Boy, not to my knowledge.

Chairman PAUL. I mean, here is my point. The NFL makes billions of dollars. We are \$2 trillion in the hole. I do not care if government shares their technology and government helps out the World Cup. But they ought to pay.

Secretary NOEM. Yes.

Chairman PAUL. People are paying hundreds of dollars for tickets, I mean thousands of dollars for the NFL for Super Bowl and things. They are also paying for FIFA. These people ought to pay. I am the one holding up these authorizations, and I will let them go forward, but I want people to pay. I mean, it is ridiculous that the average taxpayer, who could never afford to go to an NFL Super Bowl, has got to pay for their security. Should the government help, if we have technology and they do not? Perhaps. But they ought to pay.

The NFL, FIFA, I think they all ought to pay, and we will be insisting on trying to put language in that. If you are a for-profit entity and the government is helping you, you ought to pay for it.

With regard to TSA Quiet Skies and Tulsi Gabbard's situation, I suspect there are going to be other people that were caught up in this thing, as well. I am horrified by the idea that we took a former Congresswoman and we are surveilling her and riding on jets with her. There was another story of an air marshal was following another air marshal or his wife. I want to hear the story of what happened. I want to hear that people have been let go, that they are no longer doing this. If there were abuses of Tulsi Gabbard's liberties I want to hear from that.

I want repercussions to come from this. I think you said something is coming. Please let us know, and let us know how the program, the destruction of civil liberties, can be minimized. I, frankly, probably have trouble with the whole program, but let's see if there is some way. We need significant reform. If it needs legislation, please come to us with that.

Thank you for your testimony today.

Secretary NOEM. Thank you.

Chairman PAUL. Senator Peters.

Senator PETERS. Thank you again, Secretary Noem, for being here. I just want to follow up briefly with Chair Paul's questions about the cost of the wall, the billions of dollars that are going to be put forward. We do have to have accurate numbers so that we can look at that for funding it. But I hope you would also take a look at all of the costs of the wall, because there are a lot of other secondary kinds of defenses you have to put forward.

I was at the wall. I have been with security folks. They tell me that a lot of the cartels have designed very sophisticated technologies to get over the wall. They are called ladders and they are called ropes. So a wall does not really do the job if there are not a lot of other background technologies there. You just cannot put on a cost for the wall. That is money that is not going to be as effective without everything else. Let's have a discussion about that.

For the first time in U.S. history, the Federal Government, at the direction of President Trump, is moving immigrants apprehended and detained in the United States on civil immigration charges to Naval Station at Guantanamo Bay, which I know you are very familiar with. In March, I traveled to Guantanamo Bay with several colleagues to have a firsthand examination of the detention operations underway, and I certainly have serious concerns about the costs involved there. Today, can you tell us the total cost for detaining individuals at Guantanamo Bay?

Secretary NOEM. You want the cost per individual?

Senator PETERS. Do you have that?

Secretary NOEM. I do not have that with me today, sir. I can get that for you.

Senator PETERS. I do have a number. Do you know how much it costs to hold an immigration in ICE detention facility in the United States? Do you have that number?

Secretary NOEM. Are you talking per day? I believe the last estimate that I got was \$142 a day, around in that approximately, per day.

Senator PETERS. Yes, but it is close to, what I am understanding, I understand it is \$165 per day, so it is in the range.

I am still waiting for detailed financial information from this Administration from my time at Guantanamo Bay. In fact, we wrote a letter with Chair Paul and the Ranking Member together. We wanted more information on the cost there.

When I was there, the 2-month cost estimate for operations was \$43 million, when we were down there talking to the officials there, and that does not include transportation to and from the island. We find that people are sent to the island and then they are sent back to the United States again before they are sent out. I am not

sure why we have all those costs. We have plenty of ICE facilities to keep them here, why you have to send them there and back.

On the day that I visited there were 87 people in custody, and my understanding is that is a pretty normal number, at that time, at least. So my back-of-the-napkin calculation—we are waiting for your numbers—is that it is costing about \$100,000 a day to keep someone at Guantanamo Bay. Man, this is like ripe for DOGE. Why is DOGE not down there, that we are spending \$100,000 a day to keep someone at Guantanamo? And we fly them down there, we keep them there a while, then we fly them back to the United States. Or we could keep them here for \$165 a day. I think that is kind of outrageous.

I am concerned by the staggering cost of this, and I would hope, Secretary, you could commit to providing this Committee a detailed breakdown of the total cost of that operation there. There was just a sea of empty beds. There were all sorts of security folks, and nobody in those beds, which is why it is so expensive.

Chair Paul will probably use this on his Festivus Report later, I am sure, of outrageous government spending, and I will look forward to seeing that.

Secretary Noem, are you familiar with Section 872 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002?

Secretary NOEM. It sounds familiar, sir. You will have to remind me the topic, yes.

Senator PETERS. Section 872 requires you, as Secretary, to provide a 60-day notice to Congress of any creation, deletion, consolidation, or alteration of organizations within the Department that are not required, in statute, which must include an explanation for the rationale behind any changes. It also prohibits you from making any changes to offices in the status.

My question for you is why have you not provided notice to Congress of the changes you are making at the Department, and will you be doing so in the near future, and will you include intended reduction in forces in that. For example, you have already terminated virtually the whole Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Office staff without any communication to Congress about your intent, and the only letter yesterday claiming all of the statutory responsibilities would be met, you sent a letter but it conflicts certainly with the whistleblower discloser that I received last week.

So please explain to the Committee why you are not following this law.

Secretary NOEM. Senator, we are following that law. Those offices that you referenced are still open and functioning and providing their duties as required, but they have been rightsized. Many times the Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, or the Ombudsman Office, which you and I visited about before, had grown quite expansive. They were used as a political tool, suing and attacking each other and censoring individuals and not doing the job for which they were created. So we have rightsized them, put them back on mission. If there would be an instance to where notification is required, I certainly will follow that.

Chairman PAUL. Time has expired. Senator Moreno.

Senator MORENO. Thank you again, Secretary. Following up on the themes that were just brought up, it seems to me that the most

commonsense answer and the least expensive way to house criminal aliens in the country is to not allow them to come here in the first place. Right? So whether it is \$160 a day, \$100,000 a day, it should be zero per day. I hope that my Democratic colleagues, let's just codify what President Trump has done and prevent criminal aliens, or anybody, from entering this country illegally. That seems like the most fiscally conservative thing.

I hope when you are talking about these questions with the Secretary that we just say let's just stop allowing people to come into the country illegally. By the way, that does not mean we do not want people to come here legally. That is the hypocrisy I just do not understand, when you are decrying the cost of housing criminal aliens. But you turned a blind eye when we had 10 million people coming into this country illegally.

Shifting gears real quick, you were a Governor. Would it surprise you to learn that you are rated one of the top five most fiscally conservative, frugal Governors in America last year?

Secretary NOEM. No, it would not surprise me. I worked hard at making sure we were accountable to our taxpayers.

Senator MORENO. So you are going to commit, and I think it would be obvious, that when you are appropriated money through the reconciliation process to help you do what you need to do, that you are going to be as fiscally prudent with that money. Correct?

Secretary NOEM. That is correct.

Senator MORENO. All right. Let's talk about what they need. Certainly there is a wall, but a wall by itself, to Senator Peters' point, does not accomplish the mission. There are all kinds of advanced technology. I was visiting Anduril. They have some incredible technology for detection that makes the Border Patrol agents [unclear]. You are looking at technology like that, right?

Secretary NOEM. Oh, absolutely. That is one of the discussions that we have had quite often with Members of Congress and in these Committee hearings, is just the wall will look very different based on where it is, plus the wall was never finished even where you have a steel bollard wall. Many times they erected the steel bollard wall but did not build out the technology to support it and to keep individuals from throwing ladders and ropes over them. There is a whole system that was designed to operate together, and even when the wall was built President Trump was never given the opportunity to complete the system that would actually secure it much better than just simple infrastructure.

Senator MORENO. Sure. So physical barriers, title detections—some of these technologies can determine the difference between an animal and a human, can direct Border Patrol agents safely, let them know what to expect when they are there. So those are all the technologies.

Let's talk about another part of what I would call the wall, which is the human element. How was the moral of the Border Patrol agents when you got there, when you took over, day one, when you visited them. Kind of describe briefly what that was like.

Secretary NOEM. They were very discouraged. If you remember, many of us—

Senator MORENO. I think you are being kind with "discouraged."

Secretary NOEM. They were not allowed to do their jobs. They hired on to Border Patrol, and ICE, I would say, it is the same story, to do a job and they were not allowed to do that by the last administration.

Senator MORENO. So there were recruitment challenges.

Secretary NOEM. Oh, there was, but not anymore.

Senator MORENO. We have to make sure we pay them properly, so that is part of the money, right, that we have raises for them.

Near and dear to my heart is the automobiles that they use there. Describe the insanity of the kinds of vehicles that Biden and Mayorkas were giving. These are the most rugged terrains in America, boulders and rocks and hills. They were sending F-150's out there with 17-inch wheels. How many of the fleet was down just because of total and complete inability to accomplish the mission?

Secretary NOEM. At times it was upwards to 30 to 40 percent of the fleet was just unusable, not able to be maintained. There were times the percentage would increase, based on the conditions to which they were deployed, as well.

Senator MORENO. I know you and I have talked about this, but I just want to reinforce it on the record. We have a great company that builds cars in Ohio called Jeep. They make a Gladiator that would put giant tires and wheels on a car, and they would be an amazing Border Patrol agent. I think even the Chair would love to see new automobiles so that the Border Patrol agents can do their job, and that is certainly part of the funding. Would that be something that you would look at?

Secretary NOEM. Yes. It is something that we need to address. We have to. In order for them to do their jobs they have to have the right equipment.

Senator MORENO. Last question. Is there anything else that we might not have asked you that you think is important for this Committee to know?

Secretary NOEM. I think that you have covered a lot of the components. We have not discussed the Secret Service, and I know that has been a big topic for this Committee in the past. I have the ability and the responsibility to oversee the Secret Service, and I just want you to know that we have gone away from the DEI recruitment directive that the Biden administration has utilized to recruit agents and what their purposes are, and we have made sure that they have the ability to do their job and protect the most powerful.

One of the statistics I think you would find to be helpful is we have an over 200 percent increase in applications to work for the Secret Service, because of the work that Sean Curran and his team have done to really tell the mission and story of what they do every day and how important it is.

Senator MORENO. Thank you.

Chairman PAUL. Senator Blumenthal.

Senator BLUMENTHAL. Thank you. Secretary Noem, on May 5th the Customs and Border Protection, quietly rescinded—I am not sure it has even been reported—their, “Processing of Pregnant and Postpartum Non-Citizens and Infants,” policy, which was issued on January 28, 2022, citing it as, “obsolete or misaligned with current agency guidance and immigration enforcement policy.”

That January 28th policy memorandum followed years of inadequate care, documented by a report from the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security, showing that the treatment of pregnant, postpartum, and nursing women, and infants, was just horrendously and horrifically inadequate. A recent site visit by Senate Judiciary Committee staff confirmed that this problem is continuing, that pregnant women being detained do not have access to adequate health care.

Do you agree or disagree that babies and pregnant women within CBP and ICE custody should receive care that are tailored to their specific needs, and why, in God's name, would that policy be rescinded providing that care?

Secretary NOEM. Well, Senator, I will look at the specifics of that policy and what was changed as of May 5th. I would say that everybody that is incarcerated or is brought into custody and is in a detention center is receiving appropriate care, and that we are making accommodations for individuals that have different physical situations or pregnancy.

Senator BLUMENTHAL. But as a matter of fact, it is not happening.

Secretary NOEM. I will look at the specific policies as to why one of the requirements may have been changed or adapted. If you have a specific to point out that would be fantastic.

Senator BLUMENTHAL. You do not know about this policy change?

Secretary NOEM. I do know about the policy change, but I have looked at the guidelines of how we handle individuals—

Senator BLUMENTHAL. But you know about the policy change. How could you allow it to happen?

Secretary NOEM. Sir, what are you finding wrong with what we do with individuals who are pregnant that are in our detention centers? Are there concerns I should be addressing?

Senator BLUMENTHAL. Women who are pregnant or who have just had a child and their infant babies are not receiving adequate medical care.

Secretary NOEM. Everybody receives medical care.

Senator BLUMENTHAL. Aren't you concerned?

Secretary NOEM. Everybody receives medical care that is in our custody, and even if they are going to be returned—

Senator BLUMENTHAL. Why was the policy rescinded then?

Secretary NOEM [continuing]. Even if they are going to be returned back to their home country, we are making sure that they have medical care in their home country before they are sent there. So that is something that we do very diligently, is to make sure that anybody who has a medical issue, a concern, something that needs to be addressed is taken care of in those detention centers.

Senator BLUMENTHAL. What you are telling me right now is factually untrue.

Secretary NOEM. No, it is actually followed through with every single day.

Senator BLUMENTHAL. But more important, you permitted a policy to be rescinded that provides for adequate care, because it was, "obsolete or misaligned" with your agency's guidance and immigration enforcement priorities. How can you sit here and tell us that

caring for pregnant women or infants or women postpartum is misaligned with your priorities? It boggles my mind.

Secretary NOEM. Yes, everyone who is in our care and in our detention centers receives medical care that is appropriate——

Senator BLUMENTHAL. But is your policy not to care for them.

Secretary NOEM [continuing]. To them and their specific condition. Absolutely, that is happening.

Senator BLUMENTHAL. You are about to lose a fifth of your workforce in FEMA. Correct?

Secretary NOEM. Yes. There are individuals in FEMA that are no longer working with us. They may have taken early retirement or deferred retirement.

Senator BLUMENTHAL. How are you going to meet the needs of our constituents, in Missouri or Connecticut, which suffered floods recently. I saw FEMA in action then as I have seen them over the years. They are dedicated, vigorous public servants. They appear and spend hours and days and weeks caring for people. You are losing a fifth of them, including most of the leadership. What is your plan to replace them?

Secretary NOEM. We have many people in FEMA that do very good work every day, taking care of people that are in a crisis situation, that are experiencing the worst day of their lives. The problem is that over the years, and under the Biden administration, they failed the American people.

Senator BLUMENTHAL. You are not answering my question, Madam Secretary.

Secretary NOEM. Oh, I absolutely am.

Senator BLUMENTHAL. How are you going to replace a workforce that is absolutely essential——

Secretary NOEM. You cannot convince me that any Federal Government agency does a better job——

Senator BLUMENTHAL [continuing]. To helping the constituents in Missouri——

Secretary NOEM [continuing]. Just because it has more people.

Senator BLUMENTHAL. You just committed to help them.

Secretary NOEM. More people does not equal a better job.

Senator BLUMENTHAL. You are not going to be able to help people in Connecticut——

Secretary NOEM. A better job is accountability to people and making sure we are taking care of them.

Senator BLUMENTHAL [continuing]. In Missouri, or anywhere in the country if you do not have the dedicated public servants in FEMA, and you are losing them.

Chairman PAUL. Time has expired. Senator Kim.

Senator KIM. Thank you, Chair. Madam Secretary, I saw the proposed budget, and it showed a decrease for FEMA non-disaster grants. It was a proposed cut of about \$646 million. But it did not clarify what programs you thought that needed to be cut. I guess I just wanted to ask, is the Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP) one that you are considering cutting?

Secretary NOEM. We are having discussions with the White House on grants that will be continued in the future. The President firmly believes that FEMA needs to be eliminated as the way it stands today, that it needs to be reformed, and that States and

local governments should do emergency response with the support of the Federal Government.

He believes it should not be in the long-term recovery, 20 years later still waiting to make claims to go out, and many of the grant programs within FEMA were moved over into climate change priorities. They were moved over into building bike paths and shade infrastructure and planting trees, when really if it is a disaster and if we need to mitigate something happening in the future we should be building better roads and bridges and putting in bigger culverts in areas that need to be addressed, not necessarily planting shade trees in parks with disaster recovery dollars. That is what people need to remember is all of these dollars that come from these grants, many times they are pulling out of that disaster recovery fund.

I think this evaluation of every single grant is appropriate. Many of them, after they are evaluated or found to be appropriate they are deployed. But that examination is something I take very seriously, that I need to do to make sure it is on task for why that grant was established.

Senator KIM. Look, I will just say point blank, I think the answer should have been a clear no, and I think that there is very strong bipartisanship here in Congress, especially in the Senate, to protect the Nonprofit Security Grant Program. It is literally the best tool that people in New Jersey are telling me is needed to be able to counter antisemitism. I cannot tell you the number of synagogues and temples that are lined up to try to get this type of funding. In fact, given the rise of antisemitism that we have in our country right now, we should be surging resources, not cutting.

I would hope that you would have a more declarative no in that vein, because, I will be honest with you, I have been trying to see if we can dramatically increase funding to the Nonprofit Security Grant Program, to try to fight this scourge of antisemitism.

I guess I just want to ask you, would you be open to supporting an increase in funding to the Nonprofit Security Grant Program if I am able to work with some of my colleagues to be able to do that?

Secretary NOEM. We definitely have seen the value in that program and are willing to discuss this with you. What I would say is that we have to do an evaluation to make sure those dollars are going to the appropriate entities that they were intended. So they have been important for many different people in different communities, and I recognize that. This evaluation, and working with you on how that program can be improved will be very important.

Senator KIM. I want to engage with you on this further, because when we are hearing this language about abolishing FEMA and whatnot, one of the elements that people have raised most concerns about is what does that mean for the Nonprofit Security Grant Program? I really do urge you to work with me and this Committee to have a declarative stance on that, so people, especially those concerned about antisemitism, can have clarity on what comes next.

You did raise the FEMA Review Council, which you said is going to be meeting for the first time today. I just wanted to see, because we have talked about this before, about what comes next, I wanted to see if you would commit to working with this Committee and hearing our perspectives as part of the council's work and giving

us an opportunity to engage before the Committee concludes their work and finalizes recommendations. Is that something you can commit to?

Secretary NOEM. Yes, absolutely. There are several things that FEMA does that need your input, statutory requirements. This is a reform process that most certainly will include you and this Committee.

Senator KIM. Yes, that is something I know we talked about before you were confirmed, and I hope we can follow upon that because I think it is incredibly important. Everyone here recognizes that reforms are needed—

Secretary NOEM. Right.

Senator KIM [continuing]. But now the question is just how is that situated. I certainly have some thoughts I want to reflect from the folks in New Jersey.

As mentioned earlier, hurricane season is upon us. Do you have a sense of when the White House is going to announce a full nominee for FEMA Administrator?

Secretary NOEM. It should be soon, but I am not going to put a timeframe on President Trump.

Senator KIM. Again, we want to have confidence that we have the leadership in place to be able to do this.

Secretary NOEM. We do have a leader in place, and I can connect you with him, as well. Dave Richardson is the Acting Administrator.

Senator KIM. I will make sure we follow up, but it would be good to have that formal nomination.

The last thing, and maybe we will just do this in a question for the record (QFR), but there has been a cut, reports of cuts to the national database tracking domestic terrorism. DHS cut the funding. I just wanted to ask you, is that correct, and is there any way that you could reconsider that and see if we can make sure we are tracking domestic terrorism rise in the country?

Secretary NOEM. Yes, I can follow up with you on that and get you that information.

Senator KIM. OK. Thank you, Secretary.

Chairman PAUL. You are almost done. You have outlasted everyone but me. You do not necessarily have to answer this. You can comment if you want. But I think one of the problems I have always had with discussion of the border is that people who often are conservative and talk about fiscal conservatism, once we start talking about the border then it is all out the window.

So the estimates on the wall I think are important. I do not think it is a very conservative estimate. It is more like \$30 million a mile as opposed to, CBP says six, you said 12 for current. It is somewhere in there.

I also would say that you are controlling 95 percent of the border without a wall right now, so that is an argument that maybe you do not need a wall. You need willpower. I give President Trump great compliments for what he has done and what you have done. I mean, 95 percent under control. No new bill, no new money.

I am not saying no new money is needed. I think you need more Border Patrol and you are going to need more money for that, but I think it should be within reason.

Now, if I were in charge of the border, though, and I wanted immediate control and I was not quite there yet, I would put 100 helipads down, concrete, about 50 yards by 50 yards, and I would put 100 helicopters on the border every 10 miles, and I would simply use technology to patrol the border, and I would pick anybody and everybody up who crosses the border illegally with the helicopters. I think you could do that, and you could probably do it for \$500 million versus \$46 billion.

I know the wall has great symbolic value, but I think we should reassess both the cost, what we want to do and how much it costs, since we are controlling 95 percent of the border. I think part of it is you have moved some money forward that needs to be replaced. I am not against, or calling for no money, but I do think that the \$46 billion is not justified unless we see something else from the Administration.

Secretary NOEM. OK.

Chairman PAUL. Thank you for your time today and your commitment to work with the Committee. The hearing record will remain open until 5 p.m., May 21, 2025, for the submission of statements and questions for the record.

The hearing is adjourned. Thank you.

[Whereupon, at 11:40 a.m., the hearing was adjourned.]

A P P E N D I X

**Opening Statement of Chairman Rand Paul
“The Department of Homeland Security’s Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2026”
May 20, 2025**

The Department of Homeland Security is a \$100 billion agency encompassing 16 different components, from the Transportation Security Administration to the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

It has grown into an unwieldy bureaucracy rife with unaccountable power and wasteful spending. Characteristics, all too common in large federal institutions.

Before your tenure, DHS had quietly expanded its scope, using taxpayer dollars to surveil American citizens, censor speech, and even fund high risk virus research-- all with little to no oversight.

I commend you and the Trump administration for ending all government sponsored censorship using DHS personnel.

Just last night, I received the first set of records from the department regarding Tulsi Gabbard placement on the TSA Quiet Skies watch list.

These documents confirm our suspicions. Federal Air Marshals surveilled the now Director of National Intelligence during domestic flights in 2024, reporting back information related to her appearance and even how many electronic she was observed using.

Unfortunately, this is not an isolated case. TSA is not the only DHS component running secretive programs behind closed doors. Most Americans would be shocked to learn that DHS funds both classified and unclassified biological research right here on U.S. soil.

Under your leadership, the department has begun producing subpoenaed records revealing deeply concerning experiments with biological threat agents. In one case, researchers proposed combining elements of two weakened anthrax strains to re-engineer a version capable of causing disease again.

These are experiments that we cannot countenance. You heard that right. DHS was using taxpayer dollars to try to recreate a fully virulent anthrax strain by engineering it from less dangerous components. That sure sounds like gain of function to me.

At the National Biodefense Analysis and Countermeasures Center, also known as NBACC, scientists have conducted repeated experiments, aerosolized some of the world's deadliest pathogens the plague, Ebola, and more, exploring how to increase their lethality and transmissibility, we have documents indicating these experiments have continued during the Biden administration.

NBACC's lab sits adjacent to NIH's Integrated Research Facility at Fort Detrick-- the very same facility where just recently Secretary Kennedy and Director Bhattacharya halted research following a disturbing biosafety instance in which a researcher intentionally slashed another's biosafety suit while handling Ebola. Inexcusable.

Afterwards, DHS personnel were reportedly seen padlocking freezers inside the NIH lab. So naturally, I want to know what exactly is the relationship between DHS and NIH at Fort Detrick?

What overlap exists between their work?

It shouldn't take a personal altercation and a compromised biosafety suit to initiate oversight. But here we are.

And why is the Department of Homeland Security an agency meant to defend the homeland, conducting experiments with pathogens capable of killing millions in the first place? These are questions and the taxpayers deserve answers.

Some might say it's about preparedness, but when does preparedness cross in the line into recklessness?

At what point does an attempt to prevent catastrophe actually increase the likelihood of one?

This is only the tip of the iceberg of the reckless research quietly being funded out of the Department of Homeland Security, some of it conducted on behalf of other federal agencies under the agency's "Work for Others" program obscuring the ability of Congress and the public to follow the money.

This isn't just a domestic safety concern—it's a diplomatic one. DHS conducts internal Arms Control Compliance Assessments to evaluate whether its projects could violate—or appear to violate—the Biological Weapons Convention.

That's why Congress must pass my bipartisan, Risky Research Review Act to establish independent oversight, a federally funded gain-of-function research and other potentially dangerous studies.

We don't even have a universally accepted definition of gain-of-function, allowing researchers to pick and choose the standards that suit them. That's not real oversight.

Secretary Noem, I appreciate your demonstrated commitment to reversing the obstruction of your predecessor and pushing back on efforts by entrenched bureaucrats within the department to delay, redact, and resist oversight.

You've inherited a difficult task restoring accountability to a department that has strayed from its founding mission.

This is a pivotal moment. I look forward to continuing to work with you to bring about long overdue transparency to the American people. Thank you.

**Ranking Member Peters Opening Statement as Prepared for Delivery
Full Committee Hearing:
The Department Of Homeland Security's Budget Request For Fiscal Year 2026
May 20, 2025**

Thank you, Chairman Paul.

Secretary Noem, thank you for joining us today.

The Department of Homeland Security is responsible for a number of critical missions that safeguard our nation, from preventing terrorism and cyberattacks – to securing our Northern and Southern borders – and responding to natural disasters.

In a disappointing departure from prior Administrations – including President Trump's first Administration, we are holding today's hearing to discuss the Department's budget needs without having received a detailed budget request from the President, or briefings from the Department's components about their budget needs.

However, we have seen in just a few short months under the Trump Administration, how the Department has undergone tremendous changes. I have serious concerns that some of those changes are harming, rather than helping, the Department in its mission to protect the safety and security of all Americans.

For example, as we head into hurricane season and wildfire season, the Administration has halted critical FEMA programs that support flood mitigation and slashed staff who focus on disaster relief. These are critical resources for states in the aftermath of a natural disaster and the Administration has provided little to no justification for these changes.

FEMA has even internally acknowledged that it is not ready for hurricane season, which starts in just 11 days.

And despite that, the Administration is still planning on shifting the burden for disaster response to state and local governments, which will put Americans at grave risk the next time disaster strikes.

Similarly – at a time when we are facing increasing threats from cyberattacks, the Administration plans to drastically cut our nation's primary cybersecurity agency, CISA.

CISA is supposed to be finalizing a rule required by law that this committee passed to improve cyber incident reporting to better protect our critical infrastructure from cyberattacks, yet

reporting indicates that 700 CISA employees have taken deferred resignation under pressure from this Administration.

CISA's work on election security has stopped and the agency's advisory committees have been shuttered.

These actions make us less prepared to address cybersecurity threats.

The Administration also proposes cutting \$247 million from the Transportation Security Administration's budget to reduce the number of frontline TSA agents.

At a time when air travel is at an all-time high and we are entering the busy summer travel season these cuts only threaten to make our skies and flying travelers less secure.

At the same time, the Administration has also cut Congressionally mandated oversight offices that protect the civil rights and civil liberties of individuals who interact with DHS components.

These offices were put in place to ensure DHS personnel can conduct their important national security missions effectively, while safeguarding the rights of the people in this country. Shutting these offices down not only puts Americans at risk – it's also a violation of the Homeland Security Act.

Despite several inquiries to your office for more information, I have yet to receive a sufficient explanation for these actions.

I also have serious concerns about this Administration's inappropriate use of the U.S. military for domestic immigration enforcement and the outrageous use of taxpayer dollars for detention at Guantanamo Bay.

Our nation faces a multitude of homeland security challenges, and this committee has always been willing to work to address them on a bipartisan basis.

Secretary Noem, when we met prior to your confirmation, you gave me a commitment that you would work with me to address the many threats facing our nation.

I hope today's hearing will be an honest discussion about the resources the Department needs to do just that.

I would hope that we would be able to have that as a discussion in a way that we have done in this committee in a bipartisan way for as long as I can remember, where our first round would be seven minutes and then a second round would be five minutes.

Certainly, Chairman Paul, I would hope you would continue the precedent that I've always known.

When Senator Johnson was chair of the committee, he always made sure that everybody had 7 minutes.

Certainly, Homeland Security is a primary concern for us, Madam Secretary, and for all of us. I'm not sure why the Chair is insisting on five minutes.

I know you're fully capable of answering for five minutes and you shouldn't be concerned about it, but apparently the Chairman is concerned about that extra time.

So, Mr. Chairman, I hope we'd get seven minutes on the first round and then five, as we always have as long as this committee has been in existence.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I look forward to seven-minute rounds.



Testimony of

KRISTI NOEM
SECRETARY
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Before

UNITED STATES SENATE
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY
AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

On

"The Department of Homeland Security's Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2026"

Tuesday, May 20, 2025
Washington, DC

Introduction

Chairman Paul, Ranking Member Peters, and distinguished Members of this Committee:

It is a privilege to present to you the Department of Homeland Security's critical work to keep our nation safe and share our priorities for Fiscal Year 2026. In the first 100 days under President Trump's leadership, the Department has established the most secure border in our nation's history, kept dangerous criminals out of America, and deported illegal aliens who threaten our people. We will not stop until there are none left.

The President's FY 2026 Budget request for DHS will establish a firm foundation upon which to surge resources in support of the Administration's border security and immigration enforcement objectives. The Administration has requested over \$175 billion for DHS as part of the reconciliation bill currently under consideration in Congress. Reconciliation would empower the DHS to implement the President's mass removal campaign and secure the border.

As we work to implement President Trump's policies, I am determined to lead the over 270,000 men and women of the Department in the most efficient and effective way possible to safeguard our nation. While the Department can seem disparate—23 component offices with broad ranging missions sets—we are united in our resolve to protect the homeland and stand ready to defend these United States against threats by air, land, sea or cyberspace. From clearing the streets of terrorists to deploying to disaster-ridden communities to help after a natural disaster, the brave men and women serving on our front lines must be fully equipped to perform their duty to keep America safe and secure.

Under President Trump's leadership, I am committed to securing our nation's borders, enforcing immigration laws, securing cyberspace and critical infrastructure, enabling transportation and trade, combating exploitation, and ensuring American resilience and preparedness.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection, for instance, is now focused on critical border security front line operations instead of serving as a pass-through agency processing illegal aliens into our country like under the last administration. The message has gotten out worldwide that America is now enforcing our laws and the border is closed. The issuing of Notices to Appear, Withdrawals, and Expedited Removals decreased by 99 percent from January 21 through April 15 of 2025, compared to the same timeframe in Fiscal Year 2024. There has been a 93 percent decrease in inadmissibility encounters throughout the southwest border since January 21, 2025. We have also seen a 94 percent decrease in encounters of unaccompanied alien children.

America is witnessing a historic decrease in illicit drug traffic due to the Trump Administration's policy changes, swift repatriation efforts, aggressive prosecutorial initiatives, and significant messaging campaigns. In March of 2025, illicit fentanyl traffic at the southwest border fell by 54 percent compared to March of 2024. The U.S. Coast Guard and U.S. Customs and Border Protection have seized nearly 232,000 pounds of fentanyl and other illicit drugs—stopping them from ever reaching American communities.

There has been a significant decline in the number of illegal aliens coming over the border, as many are turning back before they even get here. March of 2025 saw the lowest number of border encounters in recorded history, at just under 7,200. On February 25, 2025, Border Patrol encountered a record low daily total of less than 160 illegal aliens at the southern border. Overall, border encounters have fallen by 99 percent, and there has been a 95 percent decrease in the number of estimated gotaways – the biggest threat to public safety¹.

Following the Trump Administration's designation of six cartels and two transnational gangs as Foreign Terrorist Organizations, we have been able to use a whole-of-government approach to crack down on these vicious groups, treating them like the terrorists they are.

Under President Trump, DHS is committed to complete construction of the southern border wall, a commonsense solution to securing our border. Currently, we have more than 85 miles of new border barrier, 17 miles of which are waterborne barriers, in various stages of construction and planning. We are also working with DoD and the Texas National Guard to deploy temporary barriers to include concertina wire, razor wire, chain link fencing, and additional barriers. This is in addition to the Administration's request for billions of additional dollars for border barrier like new primary and secondary border wall systems, waterborne barrier systems, and technology where wall is currently installed but lacks the completed systems needed.

We are committed to enforcing the United States' immigration laws. Our priority is to identify, arrest, detain, and remove dangerous criminal illegal aliens and those with final orders of removal. We are giving illegal aliens the opportunity to voluntarily self-deport using the CBP Home app, in response and contrast to the Biden Administration's utilization of the CBP One app, which allowed more than 1 million aliens to illegally enter the United States. Self-deportation is the best option for illegal aliens, while preserving our law enforcement resources. It saves our taxpayer dollars and allows us to focus valuable resources on dangerous criminal illegal aliens.

Our enforcement efforts prioritize illegal aliens who have committed crimes and are a threat to public safety and national security, including aliens who are affiliated with Foreign Terrorist Organizations like Tren de Aragua and MS-13. However, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement has the authority to deport anyone in the country here illegally, which is a crime.

The number of suspected gang members U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement has arrested since January 20, 2025, represents a 105 percent increase compared to the same period in Fiscal Year 2024. The number of known or suspected terrorists we have arrested from January 20 to mid-April this year represents a 700 percent increase compared to the same period in Fiscal Year 2024.²

¹ A gotaway is an illegal entry that was detected and that all efforts to continue tracking the entry have stopped.

² ICE arrest data is current through April 16, 2025.

We have secured the border, decreased drug trafficking, and arrested criminal illegal aliens, but we need Congress to secure investments in staffing, infrastructure, technology, information sharing, and public-private partnerships to ensure these successes continue.

Trade Enforcement

Our Homeland Security mission includes safeguarding the American worker. We are committed to enforcing President Trump's America First Trade Agenda. On April 2, 2025, Liberation Day, President Trump announced new tariffs on 185 countries to address the national emergency posed by the large and persistent goods trade deficits that is driven by the absence of reciprocity in our trade relationships. That day, he hammered home that the days of unilateral American disarmament in trade policy are over.

As U.S. Customs and Border Protection enforces tariffs on imports and Homeland Security Investigations performs criminal investigations on illicit trade, travel, and finance, the Department of Homeland Security stands on the frontlines of America's economic defense. We have been open and receptive to reasonable overtures made by our trading partners, who have come to the negotiating table. This has proven what we have known all along: tariffs work.

We've implemented automated systems, targeted inspections, and field guidance in the hands of frontline officers to improve tariff collections. In Antidumping and Countervailing Duty revenue collection, we secured \$1.1 billion in additional revenue as a result of targeted reviews of 774 shipments that were detected as discrepant for Antidumping and Countervailing Duty payment. Since January 20, 2025, we have collected over \$37 billion in tariffs. With a 99 percent collection rate, U.S. Customs and Border Protection has consistently shown to be an extremely reliable enforcement arm in collecting tariff revenue.

We play a critical role in enforcing U.S. laws prohibiting imports of goods made with forced labor, which is a form of human trafficking. In enforcing these laws to include the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act, we keep these illicit goods from entry into our markets, preventing malign actors from profiting off human rights abuses and undermining U.S. businesses and their workers with unfairly traded goods. Eliminating goods made with forced labor from global supply chains makes legitimate supply chains more resilient and allows American made products to compete on a level playing field.

Transportation Security Administration

Keeping American travelers safe requires that we safeguard our inherently open and vulnerable transportation systems. The Transportation Security Administration is directly responsible for ensuring Americans can travel within the U.S. safely and securely. In a single day, the U.S. sees

over 45,000 flights and 2.9 million airline passengers cross more than 29 million miles of air space.³ In addition to mention maritime and land-based public transport.

We will do what other administrations failed to do – follow the law and implement the REAL ID program to stop domestic air travel of illegal aliens, criminals, and foreign nationals using fraudulent identification. This law was passed over 20 years ago, and 81% percent of American travelers are already REAL ID compliant. We will ensure compliance and security. REAL ID was created to help ensure that no horrific attack like the one on 9/11 will ever happen again. In preparing for implementation, which began on May 7, 2025, we worked closely with States to ensure compliance and urge every American to obtain a REAL ID for smoother and more secure air travel.

The Transportation Security Administration continues to improve efficiency while enhancing security through growth of the TSA PreCheck program, accounting for over one-third of all travel volume. Over 21 million travelers have seen how easy it is to enroll in TSA PreCheck, with reduced pricing for enrollments and renewals, making it more affordable for all eligible U.S. travelers.

Cybersecurity and Combating Cyber Crime

In the hyper-connected 21st century, securing the homeland now includes protecting our cyber infrastructure. The threat environment to our homeland through cyberspace now changes by the nanosecond, and we must keep up. The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency proactively addresses a rapidly evolving cyber threat environment and thwarts cyber-attacks from foreign adversaries and cyber criminals. These attacks continue to grow in frequency, scope, and severity, as demonstrated by the recent cyber espionage campaign by the threat actor known as Salt Typhoon, which resulted in the compromise of private communications of several high-profile individuals from adversaries and criminals who seek to do us harm.

China has repeatedly demonstrated its capability and intent to infiltrate and potentially disrupt critical systems within the United States. Chinese-affiliated actors have compromised multiple communications, energy, transportation, and water critical infrastructure organizations across the country. Every day, the Department of Homeland Security works with government, industry, and international partners to prevent, detect, and respond to cyber intrusions to U.S. critical infrastructure.

We have dramatically increased our cyber operations to prevent threats and address vulnerabilities within the Federal Government. This effort goes hand-in-hand with our critical infrastructure efforts, as China and other nation states are often leveraging the same tools and tactics to weaken and spy on the U.S. Our unique authorities and positioning between the Intelligence Community, law enforcement, industry, and international partners is critical to understanding cyber adversary intent and applying critical protections domestically.

³ [Air Traffic By The Numbers | Federal Aviation Administration](#)

U.S. Secret Service

Since the beginning of the Trump Administration, the men and women of the U.S. Secret Service have ensured the safety of protectees during more than 1,400 official visits and successfully secured the safety of visiting world leaders at over 270 protective visits. At the same time, Secret Service investigative operations have recovered hundreds of millions of dollars and bolstered the law enforcement partnerships that enable these types of operations. In the first two months of this Administration, the agency's criminal and cyber investigations have enabled the Secret Service to return over \$226,000,000 in forfeited assets to American people who were victims of crimes and incurred financial loss.

Secret Service manpower needs have been reassessed in the wake of the July 13, 2024, assassination attempt on President Trump. We have since implemented targeted recruiting for experience and training that is transferable to specialty teams. We also created a talent pipeline with military organizations whose missions align with the Secret Service's technical requirements and have advanced digital platforms to enhance job candidate outreach and engagement.

Secret Service has executed two nationwide advertising campaigns to increase recruitment, which are already yielding incredible recruiting results. Under President Trump, the Secret Service has had a 194 percent increase in applications since this period last year and have hired the most Special Agents in the agency's history. We are on track to almost double last year's law enforcement hiring.

U.S. Coast Guard

The U.S. Coast Guard is a central pillar of American national security and power projection. As a military service and law enforcement organization, the Coast Guard faces a unique set of operational challenges and opportunities, necessitating a unique posture for rapid response to a variety of evolving missions with a modernized fleet that supports these requirements. As the Arctic increases in importance to American security, the Coast Guard is uniquely positioned as the only military service possessing the fleet necessary to break polar ice and maintain sea lanes.

The Coast Guard is facing the greatest readiness crisis since World War II. We are acting now through Force Design 2028 to restore capability and deter emerging threats. With Congress' help, we will transform the Coast Guard and deliver a future-ready force. President Trump and I are fully aligned in their directive: reinvigorate the Coast Guard or risk strategic failure.

Focused on four campaigns – Force Design 2028 will reform the U.S. Coast Guard's personnel, organization, contracting and acquisition, and technology. Increased national demand for our Coast Guard requires a larger, more capable military workforce. This campaign will improve training systems, boost access to medical care, and modernize both the Coast Guard Reserve and the civilian management system.

As global security threats, technological advancements, and operational demands continue to evolve, the Coast Guard must adapt its organizational construct and internal decision-making and governance processes to remain relevant, effective, and responsive. We will develop a high velocity acquisition and contracting system to rapidly deliver the assets the Service needs to fulfill its commitment to the American people. The Coast Guard will accelerate the adoption of secure, state-of-the-market technologies to enhance data sharing, situational awareness, and operational effectiveness.

The great men and women of our U.S. Coast Guard are excited to support the efforts of the Administration to secure our border and strengthen our economy. The Coast Guard continues to conduct search and rescue missions, and to detect, deter, and interdict illegal migration, drug smuggling, and other malign activity before it reaches our shores.

Emergency Management and Disaster Response

The Federal Government's role in emergency management and response needs to be both reformed and reimagined. Under President Trump's leadership, we are reorienting the Federal Emergency Management agency's responsibilities and eliminate the dysfunction of the current agency as it exists today. We need to enable preparedness against global and dynamic threats and hazards, while providing expeditious, effective, and impartial response to disasters. This alignment seeks to empower State and local jurisdictions and individuals to engage more actively in national resilience and preparedness.

Just four days after returning to office, President Trump directed aggressive actions to expedite response and recovery in areas recently devastated by hurricanes or wildfires. Within those first four days, President Trump was on the ground meeting survivors in North Carolina who endured Hurricane Helene and in California who endured preventable wildfires around Los Angeles County. Within days of the President's visit, we registered 2,600 families in North Carolina that desperately needed help and reduced by nearly 80 percent the number of assistance cases stuck in bureaucratic red tape. While taxpayer dollars continue to subsidize the majority of disaster response and recovery costs, we are identifying ways to preserve these tax dollars or use them more responsibly.

The American people need action –not red tape, and the President continues to identify opportunities to enhance efficiency while expediting response to ongoing natural disasters, including severe weather, tornadoes, flooding, or wildfires across multiple States. Thanks to President Trump's approval of Stafford Act declarations, we provided over \$58 million dollars in assistance directly to survivors and enabled rapid deployment of Incident Management Assistance Teams, emergency communication support, and Urban Search and Rescue teams, bolstering State and local disaster response operations.

President Trump remains committed to saving American lives and livelihoods, and we will institute commonsense approaches to achieve national security and resilience while empowering state and local governments and the strongest of all –American citizens.

Conclusion

As the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, I can proudly say that with honor and integrity, we will safeguard the American people, our homeland, and our values. The achievements I share are just a few examples of what we have accomplished in just 100 days. With a job as big as the one the men and women of this Department take on every day, it is impossible to list all of the things that its 23 components are doing to protect the American people and improve operations to deliver a more responsive and efficient government.

I am grateful to the men and women of the Department of Homeland Security who exude bravery, dedication, and patriotism as they carry out their sworn duties allowing the American people to sleep better at night. We dutifully ask Congress to continue providing our men and women with the resources that they need to do their jobs.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. I look forward to your questions.



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DHS Is Considering Reality Show Where Immigrants Compete for Citizenship - WSJ

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<https://www.wsj.com/politics/policy/dhs-is-considering-reality-show-where-immigrants-compete-for-citizenship-47de277c>

POLITICS | POLICY

DHS Is Considering Reality Show Where Immigrants Compete for Citizenship

‘This isn’t ‘The Hunger Games’ for immigrants,’ says the producer behind the pitch

By [Michelle Hackman](#) [Follow](#), [Elizabeth Findell](#) [Follow](#) and [Joe Flint](#) [Follow](#)

Updated May 16, 2025 11:00 am ET



Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem during a hearing on Wednesday. PHOTO: ANNA MONEYMAKER/GETTY IMAGES

The Department of Homeland Security is considering being part of a television show in which immigrants would compete for potential U.S. citizenship, an idea the producer pitched as far back as the Obama administration.

Department spokeswoman Tricia McLaughlin said she had spoken to the producer of the proposed television reality show and that consideration of the idea was ongoing.

It is “in the very beginning stages of that vetting process,” she said, adding, “Each proposal undergoes a thorough vetting process prior to denial or approval.”

<https://www.wsj.com/politics/policy/dhs-is-considering-reality-show-where-immigrants-compete-for-citizenship-47de277c>

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DHS Is Considering Reality Show Where Immigrants Compete for Citizenship - WSJ

The pitch for the proposed citizenship-competition show comes from Rob Worsoff, a producer and writer whose credits include the “Duck Dynasty” reality show. Worsoff, who emigrated from Canada, told The Wall Street Journal that the show is meant to be hopeful and a celebration of what it means to be an American citizen.

“This isn’t ‘The Hunger Games’ for immigrants,” Worsoff said. Immigrants already in the system would compete in various contests including potentially on American history and science. Worsoff stressed that losing contestants wouldn’t face deportation. “This is not, ‘Hey, if you lose, we are shipping you out on a boat out of the country,’” he said.

Worsoff’s outreach to DHS was earlier [reported](#) by the Daily Mail.

In a 36-page slide deck reviewed by the Journal, Worsoff’s team outlines a reality-style TV show where, in one-hour episodes, immigrants compete to prove they are the most American. In one challenge set in San Francisco, for example, immigrants would compete in a gold rush competition where they are sent into a mine to retrieve the most gold. In another episode, contestants would be divided into teams and placed on an auto assembly line in Detroit to reassemble the chassis of a model T.

The slide deck envisions the show beginning with the contestants sailing to Ellis Island, where they are greeted by the show’s host, a famous naturalized American. (As examples, the producers suggest the actors Sofia Vergara, Ryan Reynolds or Mila Kunis.) The contestants would travel across the country on a train. After each episode, one seat on that train would be eliminated.

McLaughlin, the DHS spokeswoman, said the department receives hundreds of pitches a year for potential television shows, ranging from documentaries about border security operations to programs about white-collar investigations. It isn’t uncommon for national and local law-enforcement agencies to consult with television producers. DHS worked for years with the producers of “To Catch a Smuggler” on Disney’s National Geographic network.

DHS Secretary Kristi Noem’s tenure as the department’s head has been [marked by a made-for-TV style](#) that has prioritized publicity—at times at the expense of operations, the Journal previously reported. The department has earmarked more than \$200 million for an ad campaign featuring Noem telling immigrants in the country illegally to go home.

On a recent trip to the El Salvador superprison where the Trump administration has incarcerated [hundreds of men without due process](#), Noem posed in front of the

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DHS Is Considering Reality Show Where Immigrants Compete for Citizenship - WSJ

prisoners sporting perfectly styled curls and a \$50,000 Rolex watch.

Worsoff said he has had no interaction with Noem and isn't aware of whether she has knowledge of his show idea. He said the feedback from DHS has been positive and he has already had preliminary discussions with networks.

McLaughlin said Noem hadn't reviewed the pitch of any scripted or reality show.

This isn't the first time Worsoff has pitched this concept to the government. He said he had talks about making the show with DHS during the Obama and Biden administrations, but the project didn't come together.

Write to Michelle Hackman at michelle.hackman@wsj.com, Elizabeth Findell at elizabeth.findell@wsj.com and Joe Flint at Joe.Flnt@wsj.com

Appeared in the May 16, 2025, print edition as 'Homeland Security Mulls An Immigrant Reality Show'.

Videos

Post-Hearing Questions for the Record (QFRs)**Submitted to Secretary Kristi Noem****From Senator Josh Hawley****May 20, 2025 – Full HSGAC Hearing****FY26 Budget Hearing**

1. Under your leadership, are Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) special agents no longer performing menial tasks in support of migrant processing at the southern border as they were under the prior administration?

Response: U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations Special Agents are no longer deployed under Operation Expanded Impact.

Are they back to carrying out their mission to conduct criminal investigations?

Response: Homeland Security Investigations are currently focused on conducting criminal investigations within its mission areas.

2. The prior administration lost track of hundreds of thousands of unaccompanied alien children (UAC).
 - a. What resources has your department dedicated to locating these UACs?

Response: Locating unaccompanied alien children is a top priority for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Refugee Resettlement. In February 2025, ICE Homeland Security Investigations and Enforcement and Removal Operations launched an initiative to locate approximately 248,000 unaccompanied alien children it identified as having been released from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Refugee Resettlement care/custody, but who have had no contact with the U.S. government since their placement with sponsors. Of the 248,000 unaccompanied alien children, approximately 165,000 were found to have reached the age of majority, were no longer present in the United States, or were otherwise no longer qualified for an unaccompanied alien child designation. ICE is now focused on locating and checking the welfare of the approximately 82,000 unaccompanied alien children remaining from the list.

ICE seeks to ensure unaccompanied alien children fulfill their immigration obligations and are protected from the threats of human trafficking and other forms of exploitation. To this end, teams of federal agents are actively locating unaccompanied alien children with more than 55,000 attempts as of June 17, 2025. These efforts are bolstered by dedicated teams of criminal analysts, as well as contract analysts and data scientists who work to enhance location data and improve screening for potential exploitation. Federal agents have initiated criminal investigations related to human smuggling, fraud, forced labor, sex trafficking, kidnapping, and other serious

crimes. ICE remains steadfast in its mission to protect these vulnerable children and hold accountable those who exploit them.

- b. How many UACs have been located by the current administration?

Response: As of June 17, 2025, teams of federal agents have located more than 10,000 unaccompanied alien children through this initiative, with whom the U. S government had previously lost contact. The previous administration put this administration in a very bad position in this regard, as the vast majority of addresses we have for these UACs are not accurate.

3. President Trump's Discretionary Budget Request included a requested increase of \$43.8 billion to the Department of Homeland Security, with specific provisions to prepare for the 2026 World Cup.
 - a. How would your department plan to use these funds to ensure Kansas City, and other host cities, are adequately prepared to host World Cup matches?

Response: The Department's Special Events Program has been planning and coordinating FIFA World Cup-related safety and security measures for nearly two years. Special Event Assessment Rating designations have been established for each match to be held in the United States, and Federal Coordination Teams are established in the 11 host cities. Among these preparations, DHS Components are engaging with state, local, tribal, and territorial partners to identify areas where DHS can help enhance security measures or preparations. Examples include assistance with drone detection and mitigation, explosive detection canine support, maritime security, transportation security, mobile communications, weapons of mass destruction detection, and health security. Among other examples:

- The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) has led numerous emergency communications planning workshops across the country with representatives from federal, state, local, and private sector organizations. CISA has also conducted vulnerability assessments at all associated venues, provided expert support in cybersecurity threat mitigation, delivered training in areas such as bombing prevention and cybersecurity.
- The U.S. Secret Service is planning for a significant number of anticipated protective missions associated with the FIFA World Cup 2026. The Secret Service has provided personnel to all Federal Coordination Teams and will likely provide additional support as planning evolves and needs to become clear – for example, if any event(s) become National Special Security Events.
- The Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) is prioritizing SAFETY Act certifications relevant to the safety and security of the FIFA World Cup 2026. The Science and Technology Directorate is also conducting research and development testing in areas such as counter-unmanned aircraft systems. The methodology is complete, and S&T has allocated Fiscal Year 2026 funding for Research and Development.
- The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has delivered a two-day planning and preparedness workshop for representatives from most of the cities hosting FIFA World Cup 2026 events.
- The DHS Office of Health Security is participating in working groups focused on public health and medical integration with public safety partners at venue locations.

- The DHS Private Sector Office will coordinate with business and industry associations – such as stadium owners/operators and travel and hospitality companies – and others involved in the World Cup efforts.
 - b. What unique threats has DHS identified for cities hosting World Cup matches, and how is DHS preparing to address them?

Response: The DHS Office of Intelligence & Analysis is developing FIFA World Cup 2026-related products in coordination with their FBI and other Intelligence Community partners, and in collaboration with the host cities and FIFA's intelligence team. The Office of Intelligence & Analysis is also engaging in intelligence and threat discussions and product development with their state, local, tribal, and territorial partners, the national fusion center network, and local interagency partners. Additional DHS Components are also developing intelligence threat products specific to their core mission areas.

**Senator Joni K. Ernst
Post-Hearing Questions for the Record
Submitted to Secretary Noem**

**The Department of Homeland Security's Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2026
May 20, 2025**

1. In 2021, an Iowa constituent of mine, Russell Construction, was awarded a General Services Administration (GSA) contract for a new, three-story, 55,000 sq-foot, federal building in Rock Island, Illinois, that is expected to house ICE and the U.S. Marshals Service, in addition to five other tenants.

The problem, as I understand it, is that aesthetic changes, largely driven by the federal judge who will work there, have kept your officials and officers out of their new building space. The GSA under the Biden administration has approved these changes, leaving all future tenants in temporary offices, at a cost of \$400,000 a year in lease payments.

I am learning that the judge had them build and rebuild three walnut desks, at a cost of upwards of \$600,000.

It is my understanding that GSA could start the finishing touches to get your agency personnel in the building, but that basically the federal judge is holding up the entire project, and costing my constituent hundreds of thousands, if not millions of dollars—costs which taxpayers might ultimately bear.

When balancing the importance of getting your agents and field officers in their already-built new offices with the “importance” of waiting for the installation of a judge’s walnut desks, the choice of DHS’ mission coming first is obvious. Would you please convey to the Acting Administrator of GSA the importance of GSA finishing this project and getting your officials in their space as soon as possible?

Response: ICE is programmed to occupy the new federal building in Rock Island, Illinois, and remains very eager to relocate to this new federal building. In 2016, ICE was notified by the General Services Administration (GSA) that ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations Rock Island Office, located in a building owned by the United States Postal Service (USPS), would need to relocate due to USPS closing and disposing of their building.

GSA entered into a contract with Rock Island Investors, LLC to construct a new, privately owned building that will be occupied by the federal government. Rock Island Investors subcontracted with Russell Construction. There have been change orders that have impacted the completion date of the building. These change orders include some aesthetic changes, but also necessary security and safety requirements identified during construction.

The schedule delays are not solely due to government change orders, but also delays by the contractor. In order for GSA to accept the space under the lease contract, additional work from the contractor must be completed and GSA inspect the work before the Government can occupy the space.

ICE will continue to work with GSA on this project to be complete it as soon as possible. The estimated substantial completion date is August 2025.

2. I have a bill that would support President Trump's maximum pressure campaign against Iran. The bill will establish a Sanctions Enforcement Fund, which will pay for DHS's expenses related to seizing shipments of Iranian oil. Would such a tool be helpful for you to carry out your duties, and will you work with me to get this bill to President Trump's desk and into law?

Response: Such legislation, as described, would be helpful for DHS and we welcome an opportunity to work with your office to ensure that such funds could be used across our sanctions enforcement operations to enhance all lawful seizures.

In 2019, Homeland Security Investigations began targeting the illicit sale and shipment of Iranian-origin petroleum products in violation of U.S. sanctions. In support of national security concerns and this administration's policies, including National Security Presidential Memorandum/NSPM-2, the continued enforcement of these sanctions is critical. In total, Homeland Security Investigations seized 5.4 million gallons of oil with an approximate value of \$315 million and approximately \$67 million connected to the sale of oil abroad. Homeland Security Investigations has also seized nearly \$31 million pursuant to ongoing criminal investigations of the National Iranian Oil Company and the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, estimated to represent a loss of approximately four percent of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps' annual oil revenue.

These investigations require a large upfront expenditure in a short period of time; for example, for just one of Homeland Security Investigations' oil tanker seizures, the upfront investigative costs totaled approximately \$17 million, due within days of the initial seizure event. While initially covered by the U.S. Treasury Executive Office for Asset Forfeiture, the U.S. Treasury Executive Office for Asset Forfeiture and the Treasury Forfeiture Fund are not designed to support such extreme expenses as a routine practice.

Such upfront expenses are generally fully recouped—often with a substantial surplus—but only after the completion of the judicial forfeiture process, which can take up to 24 months.

A specific sanction enforcement fund accessible to Homeland Security Investigations would greatly increase Homeland Security Investigations' ability to conduct these crucial investigations and seizures, directly supporting U.S. sanctions against hostile governments such as Iran.

In addition to establishing such a fund, the codification of the Export Enforcement Coordination Center would ensure the continued operation of this essential multi-agency organization dedicated to enhancing U.S. government efforts to effectively investigate all U.S. export violations. The Export Enforcement Coordination Center leads a whole-of-government approach

to export enforcement by ensuring and facilitating interagency coordination and collaboration, minimizing duplication of efforts, and strengthening the critical links between law enforcement, the intelligence community, and the export licensing agencies.

Post-Hearing Questions for the Record
Submitted to Secretary Kristi Noem
From Ranking Member Gary Peters

“The Department of Homeland Security’s Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2026”
May 20, 2025

Immigration/Border Security

1. **QUESTION:** You testified that DHS is purchasing plane tickets and providing \$1,000 to individuals who elect to “self-deport.” Please provide:
 - a. The total amount of department expenditures for this initiative, as of May 21, 2025.

ANSWER: The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), under an Economy Act interagency agreement with the U.S. Department of State (DOS), has expended \$1,005,155 in foreign assistance funds as of May 21, 2025.

- b. A list of accounts the department is using to fund this initiative.

ANSWER: Under an Economy Act agreement with the DOS, DHS is using Migration and Refugee Assistance Act funds to implement activities associated with Project Homecoming.

- c. What legal authorities the department is using to operate this program.

ANSWER: DHS, under the terms of its interagency agreement with the DOS, is using foreign assistance funding and the derived authority to implement Project Homecoming. DHS defers to DOS for information regarding specific authorities in the Migration and Refugee Assistance Act enabling DOS and DHS to operate this program.

- d. If any part of this initiative is being funded by or operating under the legal authority of another department, please identify the department(s) and any agreements between the Department of Homeland Security and that department(s) to carry out the initiative.

ANSWER: DHS is using Migration and Refugee Assistance funds via an Economy Act Agreement with DOS.

3. **QUESTION:** Please provide a breakdown of the resources, by DHS component and office, that the Department has specifically reallocated from activities associated with countering terrorism to support the Department’s immigration enforcement mission?

ANSWER: The Department did not reallocate any funding from countering terrorism activities to support immigration enforcement.

4. **QUESTION:** Last week, it was reported that DHS sent a Request for Assistance to the Department of Defense requesting the National Guard provide resources for immigration

enforcement. Please provide the committee with the Request for Assistance, the specific roles and activities requested for the National Guard to perform, and the authority under which the National Guard members would be performing such activities.

ANSWER: U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) requested 21,000 personnel through a Request for Assistance to DoD. Presently, this Request for Assistance is under legal review. DoD personnel will support processing, transportation, and detention services in all 25 ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations field offices. On or about May 9, 2025, a Request for Assistance was submitted to the DoD, specifically requesting National Guard personnel's support under Title 32 of the United States Code and under section 287(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act authority, to assist with administrative and processing duties to allow ICE law enforcement personnel to focus on enforcement operations.

Guantanamo Bay Detention

5. **QUESTION:** Are attorney-client phone calls at Guantánamo Bay recorded?

ANSWER: No.

6. **QUESTION:** How many people have been placed in segregation while detained at Guantánamo. For each individual placed in segregation in Guantánamo, please provide the length of time of the segregation.

ANSWER: As of June 17, 2025, six illegal aliens are currently in segregation. Please refer to the below table for the length of time in segregation.

| Illegal Alien | Days |
|---------------|------|
| 1 | 1 |
| 2 | 3 |
| 3 | 3 |
| 4 | 3 |
| 5 | 3 |
| 6 | 3 |

7. **QUESTION:** Who at DHS makes the determination that an individual should be detained at Guantánamo, or removed from Guantánamo? Please provide their rank and department.

ANSWER: Determinations regarding which aliens will be transferred and detained at Naval Station Guantánamo Bay are made on a case-by-case basis by the individual ICE field office with a focus on prioritizing illegal aliens with a nexus to transnational criminal organizations or criminal drug activity and who are subject to final removal orders without legal impediments to removal. Each case is subsequently reviewed and approved by the ICE Office of the Principal Legal Advisor. ICE leverages the Migrant Operations Center and Joint Task Force Camp 6 for detention sites to arrange flights and removals as it similarly does with the numerous detention sites within the continental United States.

8. **QUESTION:** Does ICE plan to continue to detain immigrants at Guantánamo?

ANSWER: Every available detention space is a space of interest to ICE in executing its mission. ICE is currently using Naval Station Guantánamo Bay to house ICE-detained aliens subject to executable final removal orders without legal impediments to removal. Capacity will change as DHS works to return illegal aliens to their countries of origin or other appropriate destination.

9. **QUESTION:** What agreements have DHS and DOD entered into for the transport to and from, or the detention of non-citizens at Guantánamo? Please provide the committee a copy of all agreements.

ANSWER: On January 29, 2025, President Trump issued the memorandum, *Expanding Migrant Operations Center at Naval Station Guantánamo Bay to Full Capacity*. The Secretaries of Defense and Homeland Security were tasked to take all appropriate actions to expand the Migrant Operations Center at Naval Station Guantánamo Bay to its full capacity; these actions were formalized via a memorandum of understanding on March 7, 2025 (attached). By increasing capacity, the Administration will enhance its ability to carry out removal operations for aliens with executable final removal orders with no legal impediments to removal. This is a strategic measure aligned with the Administration's broader goals of protecting the American people and fighting illegal immigration.

Accompanying this response is a clarifying memo that explains the transportation costs the DoD can make on a non-reimbursable basis for ICE.

10. **QUESTION:** What set of standards govern detention conditions for people held at Guantánamo? Please provide the committee a copy.

ANSWER: DHS and DoD recently formalized temporary detention standards to ensure the increased number of detainees are managed effectively and humanely at Naval Station Guantánamo Bay. These new standards help ICE and DoD maintain order and safety within the facility while addressing the specific needs of high priority aliens.

11. **QUESTION:** Please provide a list – including the dates – of all removal flights from Guantánamo Bay to other countries and identify the nationalities of the individuals on each flight.

ANSWER: Please refer to the below tables. Please note that there are discrepancies in alien removal totals on the flights due to numerous factors. For example, flight manifests are subject to change during loading and unloading of illegal aliens on the flightline and may not have been later corrected to reflect the true numbers. This data is current as of June 19, 2025.

Breakdown of Aliens Removed by Nationality, Flight, and Departure Location

| Flight Date | Departure Location | Aliens' Nationality | Number of Aliens |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 02/20/2025 | Windward Holding Facility (or Camp 6) | Venezuela | 50 |
| 02/20/2025 | Migrant Operations Center | Venezuela | 127 |
| 02/26/2025 | Camp 6 | Honduras | 5 |
| 03/02/2025 | Camp 6 | El Salvador | 5 |
| 03/02/2025 | Camp 6 | Guatemala | 3 |
| 03/02/2025 | Camp 6 | Nicaragua | 1 |
| 03/02/2025 | Migrant Operations Center | Colombia | 3 |
| 03/02/2025 | Migrant Operations Center | El Salvador | 3 |
| 03/02/2025 | Migrant Operations Center | Guatemala | 9 |
| 03/02/2025 | Migrant Operations Center | Brazil | 3 |
| 03/02/2025 | Migrant Operations Center | Dominican Republic | 3 |
| 03/02/2025 | Migrant Operations Center | Ecuador | 5 |
| 03/02/2025 | Migrant Operations Center | Nicaragua | 2 |
| 03/02/2025 | Migrant Operations Center | Peru | 3 |
| 03/06/2025 | Migrant Operations Center | Brazil | 1 |
| 03/11/2025 | Camp 6 | Syria | 1 |
| 03/11/2025 | Camp 6 | Bolivia | 1 |
| 03/11/2025 | Camp 6 | Nicaragua | 1 |
| 03/11/2025 | Camp 6 | Turkey | 2 |
| 03/11/2025 | Camp 6 | Romania | 1 |
| 03/11/2025 | Camp 6 | Sweden | 1 |
| 03/11/2025 | Camp 6 | Vietnam | 4 |
| 03/11/2025 | Camp 6 | Morocco | 1 |
| 03/11/2025 | Camp 6 | Belize | 1 |
| 03/11/2025 | Camp 6 | Georgia | 1 |
| 03/11/2025 | Camp 6 | Senegal | 1 |
| 03/11/2025 | Camp 6 | Afghanistan | 1 |
| 03/11/2025 | Camp 6 | Cambodia | 1 |
| 03/11/2025 | Camp 6 | Liberia | 1 |
| 03/11/2025 | Camp 6 | Laos | 1 |
| 03/11/2025 | Camp 6 | Ecuador | 1 |
| 03/11/2025 | Migrant Operations Center | Dominican Republic | 3 |
| 03/11/2025 | Migrant Operations Center | Ecuador | 9 |
| 03/11/2025 | Migrant Operations Center | Egypt | 1 |
| 03/11/2025 | Migrant Operations Center | El Salvador | 3 |
| 03/11/2025 | Migrant Operations Center | Colombia | 1 |
| 03/31/2025 | Camp 6 | El Salvador | 16 |
| 04/03/2025 | Camp 6 | Nicaragua | 11 |
| 04/03/2025 | Migrant Operations Center | Nicaragua | 33 |
| 04/10/2025 | Camp 6 | Venezuela | 4 |
| 04/11/2025 | Migrant Operations Center | Venezuela | 29 |
| 04/12/2025 | Camp 6 | Venezuela | 1 |
| 04/12/2025 | Camp 6 | El Salvador | 2 |

| Flight Date | Departure Location | Aliens' Nationality | Number of Aliens |
|-------------|---------------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 04/13/2025 | Camp 6 | Venezuela | 1 |
| 04/13/2025 | Camp 6 | El Salvador | 1 |
| 04/13/2025 | Migrant Operations Center | El Salvador | 1 |
| 04/16/2025 | Camp 6 | Nicaragua | 6 |
| 04/16/2025 | Migrant Operations Center | Nicaragua | 13 |
| 04/23/2025 | Camp 6 | Venezuela | 1 |
| 04/30/2025 | Camp 6 | Nicaragua | 11 |
| 04/30/2025 | Migrant Operations Center | Nicaragua | 19 |
| 05/20/2025 | Camp 6 | Nicaragua | 4 |
| 05/20/2025 | Migrant Operations Center | Nicaragua | 23 |
| 05/21/2025 | Camp 6 | Venezuela | 4 |
| 05/21/2025 | Migrant Operations Center | Venezuela | 7 |
| 05/22/2025 | Camp 6 | Nicaragua | 11 |
| 05/22/2025 | Migrant Operations Center | Nicaragua | 3 |

Oversight

12. **QUESTION:** In the letter you sent me regarding CRCL, dated May 19, 2025, you said that 147 people were terminated from the Office as part of a Reduction in Force. You also claimed that the “Department will continue to meet all statutory requirements.”

- a. Who is currently serving as the Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (CRCL) Officer?

ANSWER: Principal Deputy Chief of Staff Troup Hemenway is the Acting Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (CRCL).

- b. Do you intend to hire new people to support the CRCL Officer? If so, will those individuals be full-time staff, detailees, or contractors?

ANSWER: Yes. There will be a mix of full-time staff, contractors, and detailees.

- c. Who is currently responsible for providing advice to you and to the components during the development and implementation of the policies, procedures and programs throughout the Department on how to protect civil rights and civil liberties?

ANSWER: Acting Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Troup Hemenway and Acting Deputy Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Ronald Sartini.

- d. Who is periodically reviewing the policies, procedures, and programs throughout the Department to assess how they impact civil rights and civil liberties?

ANSWER: Acting Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Troup Hemenway and Acting Deputy Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Ronald Sartini.

- e. Who is currently responsible for adjudication equal opportunity cases for the Department?

ANSWER: Acting Deputy Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Ronald Sartini.

- f. Who is currently overseeing compliance with constitutional, statutory, regulatory, policy, and other requirements relating to the civil rights and civil liberties of individuals affected by the programs and activities of the Department?

ANSWER: Acting Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Troup Hemenway and Acting Deputy Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Ronald Sartini.

- g. Who is responsible for implementing DHS's statutory responsibilities under the Women, Peace, and Security Act?

ANSWER: Acting Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Troup Hemenway and Acting Deputy Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Ronald Sartini.

- h. Who is conducting civil right and civil liberties assessments of every jurisdiction delegated law enforcement authority under 297(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. §1357(g))?

ANSWER: Acting Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Troup Hemenway and Acting Deputy Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Ronald Sartini.

- i. Who is responsible for training fusion center staff about civil liberties?

ANSWER: Acting Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Troup Hemenway and Acting Deputy Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Ronald Sartini.

- j. Who is responsible for reviewing the civil rights and civil liberties implications and issues in the DHS Traveler Redress Program?

ANSWER: Acting Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Troup Hemenway and Acting Deputy Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Ronald Sartini.

- k. Who is co-chairing the National Vetting Center Privacy, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties Working Group on behalf of the CRCL Officer?

ANSWER: Acting Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Troup Hemenway, alternating with Acting Deputy Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Ronald Sartini as needed.

- l. Who is responsible for oversight of TSA and CBP's rules-based lists on behalf of the CRCL Officer?

ANSWER: Acting Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Troup Hemenway and Acting Deputy Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Ronald Sartini.

13. **QUESTION:** What policies are in place to ensure that any law enforcement personnel involved in immigration enforcement are clearly identifying themselves to support the safety of officers and the public?

ANSWER: ICE agents and officers may initially identify themselves as “police” during an encounter because it is the universally recognized term for law enforcement and ICE personnel routinely interact with individuals from around the world. To put this into context, in some countries, immigration law is enforced by civilians rather than law enforcement officers. Moreover, not all aliens may understand what “ICE” stands for, or what “Immigration and Customs Enforcement” means. In the often-dangerous law enforcement arena, being able to immediately identify yourself as law enforcement may be a life-or-death issue. ICE-issued field equipment may also display “ICE” to indicate the specific law enforcement agency being represented.

- a. What steps is DHS taking to ensure it has the right information before making an arrest, such as breaking a car window to grab the wrong individual, or sending an email to an American citizen telling them they must self deport?

ANSWER: ICE uses a range of law enforcement and intelligence techniques to identify aliens who are present in the United States without authorization or are otherwise removable; represent threats to national security, public safety, and border security; or otherwise undermine the integrity of U.S. immigration laws. ICE routinely makes every effort to track real-time reporting on suspects before making an arrest. ICE leverages multiple law enforcement systems (i.e., criminal history, active warrants, valid non/immigrant status within the United States, criminal investigations, national security threats, and open-source information) to track, identify, and monitor aliens to ensure it has the right information before conducting an enforcement action.

14. **QUESTION:** Congress tasked the DHS Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties with oversight responsibility over the 287(g) program. Given the restructuring of that office, please explain Is ICE requiring in-person training for state and local law enforcement officers to whom it is delegating substantial authority in this program, including with regard to racial profiling?

ANSWER: Designated Immigration Officers participating in the Jail Enforcement Model receive four weeks of in-person training at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) in Charleston, South Carolina. The training includes compliance with civil rights requirements among other immigration-related topics.

Officer nominees for the Warrant Service Officer Model undergo eight hours of self-paced virtual training delivered via e-FLETC. Similarly, officer nominees for the Task Force Model undergo 40 hours of self-paced virtual training delivered via e-FLETC. Both virtual training courses cover civil rights and racial profiling.

CISA/Cybersecurity

15. **QUESTION:** You said during the hearing that you had found thousands of documents that proved CISA was suppressing speech.

- a. Please provide all associated documents to the Committee for review.

ANSWER: DHS looks forward to working with the Committee to provide the relevant documents.

16. **QUESTION:** Please provide an update on the final rule to implement the requirements of the CIRCIA legislation. When do you anticipate releasing that? Or do you plan to revise the interim rule and release that first?

ANSWER: The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) published the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on April 4, 2024. CISA is examining options within the rulemaking process to address Congressional intent and streamline CIRCIA's requirements consistent with feedback on the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking.

17. **QUESTION:** You said during the hearing that despite President Trump's skinny budget cutting about \$500 million from CISA's topline budget, cybersecurity is strengthened. You also said that these efforts were to put CISA "back on mission" and necessary for getting rid of duplication, suppression of speech activities, and efforts unrelated to cybersecurity.

- a. Please identify what specific offices or programs have been eliminated or reduced at CISA.

ANSWER: CISA's statutory mission continues without interruption. The agency is performing line-by-line reviews of every requirement in the agency's spend plan and is working closely with DHS leadership to identify opportunities for greater accountability, transparency, and cost-savings.

- b. Please list the specific offices or programs that you plan to cut or reduce to achieve a \$500 million reduction in CISA's budget.

ANSWER: Specific details will be provided in the Fiscal Year 2026 President's Budget.

- c. How do you plan to measure to demonstrate the proposed CISA budget cuts, if enacted, and agency downsizing are effective?

ANSWER: The Budget refocuses CISA on its core mission—Federal network defense and enhancing the security and resilience of critical infrastructure. The Budget also removes offices that are duplicative of existing and effective programs at the State and Federal level.

18. **QUESTION:** You said during the hearing that despite CISA losing potentially hundreds of employees, statutory requirements would be fulfilled.

- a. Please provide a detailed account for exactly how many CISA employees have accepted the deferred resignation offer. Which offices or programs have the most vacancies due to deferred resignation?

ANSWER: To date, over 700 employees have expressed interest in participating in the DHS Workforce Transition Programs, which includes the Deferred Resignation Program, Voluntary Early Retirement Authority, and Voluntary Separation Incentive Program.

- b. What, if any, assessments have been done to ensure statutory requirements would be met?

ANSWER: CISA has conducted an extensive review of its authorities to ensure all divisions are focused on implementing mission essential and statutorily mandated functions.

- c. Will you be relying entirely on full-time or part-time government employees to complete statutory requirements? Will you recommend contractors be used to fill gaps?

ANSWER: CISA is committed to hiring the best and the brightest and will continue to use all available pathways to hire future talent, as well as retaining those who are already part of its workforce.

- d. Please detail the plan for which offices or programs would be cut due to a loss of personnel.

ANSWER: In accordance with EO 14210, Implementing the President's "Department of Government Efficiency" Workforce Optimization Initiative, CISA has developed an Agency Reduction in Force and Reorganization Plan to both refocus the agency on its core mission and eliminate duplicative functions.

FEMA

- 19. **QUESTION:** Under your leadership, FEMA announced it was cancelling the Building Resilient Infrastructure Communities (BRIC) program, including the grant applications from Fiscal Years 2020-2023.

- a. Please provide the statutory authority under which FEMA has cancelled the BRIC program, including the FY 2020-2023 grant awards which were appropriated in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

ANSWER: The Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities program was established in 2020 under Section 203 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act. This Section of the Stafford Act provides the discretionary authority to make available technical and financial assistance to States and local governments to assist in the implementation of predisaster hazard mitigation measures.

DHS and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) are expected to make a decision soon on funding of Building Resilient Infrastructure Communities

subapplications and subawards from the Fiscal Year 2020-2023 cycles and will be in communication with recipients.

- b. You previously stated that 90% of BRIC funding for FY 2020-2023 has now been released to grant applicants, which contradicts FEMA's press release dated April 4 stating that \$133 million has been provided to grant applicants and that \$882 million was being returned to the Treasury. Can you please describe this discrepancy?

ANSWER: The Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities program was funded using two funding sources: (1) a discretionary 6 percent set-aside from the Disaster Relief Fund and (2) a \$1B appropriation from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021, which provided \$200M per year for Fiscal Years 2022 through 2026.

The press release notes that as a result of the end of the BRIC program: 1) More than \$3.6B will remain in the Disaster Relief Fund to assist with disaster response and recovery for communities and survivors. These funds existed as a part of the discretionary 6 percent set aside for BRIC. 2) \$133M of Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act funding has been provided to fund subapplications, and that the remaining \$882M from the \$1B appropriation will not be spent.

Over 90 percent of the BRIC subapplications in Michigan (24 out of 25) have received an obligation.

- c. Regarding FY 2020-2023 BRIC grant awards for Michigan, please provide, including how much for each:
 - i. All FY 2020-2023 grant awards that have received funding from FEMA.

ANSWER: Michigan has received \$19.5 million in awarded funding from FEMA for all Fiscal Year 2020-2023 Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities grants which includes \$1.3 million in Recipient Management Costs.

- ii. All FY 2020-2023 grant awards that have remaining balances.

ANSWER: Michigan has \$17.1 million remaining in unliquidated obligation status.

- iii. What outstanding awards will receive any or all of their remaining grant award funding.

ANSWER: DHS and FEMA are expected to make a decision soon on funding of Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities subapplications and subawards from the Fiscal Year 2020-2023 grant cycles.

20. **QUESTION:** Please provide FEMA's hurricane preparedness plan for this hurricane season that you referenced during your testimony.

ANSWER: President Trump and the Secretary have called on FEMA to regain focus to its core mission, and we are taking steps to do exactly that.

First, the nation needs to get back to a model where disaster response and recovery is locally led, state managed, and federally supported. Actions at all levels of disaster response and recovery must begin with neighbors helping neighbors. The best responders to disasters are those who know their communities. However, when federal assistance is warranted, every FEMA employee is an emergency responder and stands ready to deploy nationwide supporting disaster declarations. We will also continue to leverage the DHS Surge Capacity Force as needed. Second, we need to focus on survivor-centric response and recovery. Survivors want us to provide resources faster with less red tape and clearer communication. They need us to remove the barriers holding them back. Third, we must enhance our operational readiness and leverage technological advances to prepare for the risks of today and the threats of tomorrow. We must turn a page on the technology side, so we are better able to eliminate processes that create delays, backlogs, and survivor frustration. Finally, we will continue to encourage increased state and local investment and ownership of disaster preparedness activities. The Secretary remain committed to keeping this Committee informed as we continue to evolve our plans and preparedness measures.

21. QUESTION: The President's Budget proposes cutting \$646 million dollars from non-disaster FEMA grant programs. Please identify which programs will be cut, provide justification for why, and how much will be cut from each program.

ANSWER: The nation needs to get back to a model where disaster response and recovery is locally led, state managed, and federally supported. Encouraging increased state and local investment is a critical component of that effort, while also enabling the Federal Government to be a good steward of taxpayer dollars. The Secretary also continues to work to eliminate processes that create delays and backlogs for when federal assistance is warranted.

22. QUESTION: The President's Budget proposes eliminating the National Domestic Preparedness Consortium (NDPC), which conflicts with a memo sent by former Acting FEMA Administrator Hamilton, calling for increased engagements with the NDPC to enhance preparedness. Please detail how DHS will support local jurisdictions to host major events, such as the FIFA World Cup and the 2028 Olympics, if federal support for these training programs is eliminated.

ANSWER: Specific detail will be provided in the Fiscal Year 2026 President's Budget. Elimination of the National Domestic Preparedness Consortium will cause an increase in demand for training provided by members of the National Preparedness Directorate's training & education enterprise including the National Disaster & Emergency Management University, the Center for Domestic Preparedness, and the Center for Homeland Defense and Security to help jurisdictions prepare for National Special Security Events such as the 2026 FIFA World Cup and the 2028 Summer Olympics.

Funding Freezes

23. QUESTION: For the Securing the Cities (STC) program, are reimbursements occurring for the participating jurisdictions?

ANSWER: No, pursuant to direction from the Secretary's Office, the Department is reviewing its grant programs, including Securing the Cities.

- a. Please confirm whether or not reimbursements to any of the 14 Securing the Cities jurisdictions for costs incurred as part of their participation in the Securing the Cities program have been paused since January 20, 2025. If there have been pauses, please elaborate which jurisdictions have not received payments and for how long.

ANSWER: In February 2025, the Department paused reimbursement payments for all 13 Securing the Cities jurisdictions pending review by the Secretary's Office.

- b. Please identify all payments from the DHS Office of Procurement Operations that are on pause as of January 20, 2025, and the reason for the pause. For each, please include which office or component is impacted, the program affected, and the amount of the payment.

ANSWER: Nine of the 13 Securing the Cities jurisdictions are currently waiting for reimbursement as identified in the attachment, and the other four jurisdictions (Denver, Houston, Miami, and Phoenix/Maricopa County) have not yet submitted for reimbursement.

- c. A lawsuit filed by the city of Chicago (*City Of Chicago v. United States Department of Homeland Security, 1:25-cv-05462, (N.D. Ill.)*) cites an email from DHS that due to "funding constraints" STC jurisdictions "must pause...all radiological and nuclear detection equipment purchases." Please describe those constraints as specifically as possible.

ANSWER: The financial constraint mentioned includes both uncertainty on approval authority for current funding reimbursement and future program allocations. Additionally, the Securing the Cities program is exploring areas where cost-savings may be achieved. The Securing the Cities program management office is uncertain when or if funds would be reimbursed to the Securing the Cities jurisdictions and did not want cities working at risk. Accordingly, the DHS Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office (CWMD) paused equipment purchases to minimize the risk of debt to cities.

- i. Has DHS exhausted congressionally appropriated STC funds?

ANSWER: No.

- ii. Has DHS redirected STC funds to other activities?

ANSWER: No.

24. **QUESTION:** Press reports indicate the so-called "Department of Government Efficiency" is targeting CWMD for elimination.

- a. Does DHS intend to include funding for CWMD in its final FY2026 budget request? If not, please explain why not.

ANSWER: Specific detail will be provided in the Fiscal Year 2026 President's Budget.

- b. Please describe whether any program implemented by CWMD is currently paused, or was put on pause on or after January 20, 2025, and then restarted.

ANSWER: The Secretary's Office has directed the Department's financial aid programs to be reviewed subject to implementation of court orders and the Secretary's authorization to process reimbursement payments of awarded grant funds to Securing the Cities and BioWatch program grant recipients. CWMD's academic scholarship grant programs for the Academic Research Initiative and Nuclear Forensics Research Awards remain under review.

- c. Have any funds appropriated to CWMD been redirected to other DHS components since January 20, 2025? If so, please describe the rationale behind the decision, the authority(ies) under which the transfer was made, where the funds were reallocated, and how the funds are being used.

ANSWER: No funds appropriated to CWMD have been redirected to other DHS components since January 20, 2025.

Science and Technology

25. **QUESTION:** The National Biodefense Analysis and Countermeasures Center (NBACC) is the only U.S. biosafety level 4 laboratory capable of conducting classified biodefense work. For the final FY2026 budget request, how much funding will DHS be requesting for NBACC?

ANSWER: Specific Detail will be provided in the Fiscal Year 2026 President's Budget.

26. **QUESTION:** Through the Science and Technology Directorate's Office of University Partnerships (OUP), DHS has supported Centers of Excellence to conduct critical research to support homeland security missions, including counterterrorism, drug detection and interdiction, and disaster preparedness and response. For the final FY2026 budget request, how much funding will DHS be requesting for OUP?

ANSWER: Specific detail will be provided in the Fiscal Year 2026 President's Budget.

Data/Privacy

27. **QUESTION:** DHS is reportedly feeding data from a number of agencies and Departments into tools used by ICE to target its enforcement. These tools include one system being developed under a sole source \$30 million contract to Palantir.

- a. Is this Palantir tool – or some other tool – being used to sort through or provide access to other datasets DHS has received or otherwise accessed from other federal agencies like the IRS, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Department of Education, or others?
- b. If so, what protections are in place for the data of U.S. citizens in these databases?

- c. What, if anything, are you doing to assess the quality of the data you are putting into these systems?

ANSWER: The DHS Privacy Office assesses privacy risk in all DHS information technology systems, technologies, rulemakings, programs, pilot projects, information collections, or forms that involve Personally Identifiable Information, and develops privacy mitigation strategies by reviewing and approving all DHS privacy compliance documentation. DHS balances information sharing with privacy protection through mechanisms such as relevant laws, regulations, governing Privacy Policies, Directives and Instructions in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 and Fair Information Practice Principles to ensure privacy is integrated throughout all department-wide programs and systems. Automated logs within the system provide necessary steps to safeguard information from any accidental or unauthorized access, use, disclosure, modification, or disposal of information. Further, DHS ensures responsible integration and use of data from other agencies while protecting privacy by following legal and government-wide frameworks. Privacy reviews are iterative and embedded in the technology development lifecycle, focusing on data quality and relevance.

28. **QUESTION:** Is DHS Directive 026-11 “Use of Face Recognition and Face Capture Technologies” still in place?

- a. If not, what policies and regulations are currently governing DHS and its components’ use of face recognition and face capture technologies?

ANSWER: Yes, 026-11 is currently in place. But we are currently in the process of reviewing the directive.

U.S. Coast Guard

29. **QUESTION:** What are the operational costs of the C-37 A/B aircraft operated by the U.S. Coast Guard? Specifically:

- a. What are the costs per flight hour?
- b. What are average costs of a round trip?

ANSWER: Direct operating cost (crew, fuel, and aircraft) for a C-37A/B is \$9,075.98 per flight hour. However, the cost per flight hour factoring in all operational and sustainment costs increases to \$15,782 per flight hour based on Fiscal Year 2025 programmed flight hours. The average cost of a round trip depends on a variety of factors, e.g., location, duration of travel, etc.

Counteracting Terrorism

30. **QUESTION:** Recent reports indicate that the Administration recently facilitated the entry of seventeen members of El Chapo’s family, including El Chapo’s sons, into the United States.

- a. Please identify the names of each individual admitted into the U.S. under this agreement with the Sinaloa cartel.
- b. Are any of these individuals being charged with crimes?

ANSWER: DHS respectfully defers these questions to the U.S. Department of Justice.

31. QUESTION: We are still waiting on the congressionally mandated DHS-FBI report on terrorism as required by the FY20 NDAA and I have raised this with you a few times since your nomination.

- a. Please provide a status update on this report.
 - i. If still in interagency review, please provide a detailed reasoning for the delays and provide a timeline on when to expect the final report.

ANSWER: We are in the final stages of coordination and deconflicting domestic terrorism incident numbers between DHS and the Federal Bureau of Investigation to complete the report. We have prioritized finalizing the Fiscal Year 2023 report and are also compiling information for the Fiscal Year 2024 report. Once the Fiscal Year 2023 report is published, we will begin drafting the Fiscal Year 2024 report.

Collective Bargaining

32. QUESTION: In your prehearing questionnaire for your nomination before the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee – you were asked if you would honor all DHS collective bargaining agreements, if confirmed. In response to the Committee's question, you stated that you would "support legally valid agreements with the Department." Shortly after being sworn in as Secretary, you terminated the collective bargaining agreement which was in place since last May for TSA Officers at airports across the country.

- a. Did the TSA agreement not constitute a "legally valid agreement?"

ANSWER: Under the Aviation and Transportation Security Act, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Administrator sets the labor framework for the screening workforce in what are known as Determinations. Aviation and Transportation Security Act §111(d) (codified at 49 U.S.C. § 44935 note), states that the TSA Administrator has the authority to set the terms and conditions of employment for the screening workforce notwithstanding any other provision of law. Therefore, under Aviation and Transportation Security Act, Title 5, Chapter 71 does not apply to the screening workforce.

Given these broad authorities to set the terms and conditions of employment for the screening workforce, various Administrators have issued "Determinations" allowing a labor framework for the non-supervisory screening workforce. TSA has had seven (7) Determinations addressing union rights for the screening workforce, in: 2003, 2011, 2014, 2016, 2019, 2022, and 2025. The 2003 and 2025 Determinations expressly disallowed collective bargaining.

The 2022 Determination on TSOs and Collective Bargaining, signed by former Administrator Pekoske, permitted collective bargaining at the national level to the same extent as permitted under Chapter 71 of Title 5 of the United States Code, but only as an exercise of the Administrator's discretion under ATSA Section 111(d). Therefore, that 2022 Determination and the 2024 Collective Bargaining Agreement between TSA and AFGE exists only as a product of the Administrator's discretion under Aviation and Transportation Security Act Section 111(d).

- b. Please provide the legal basis for the termination of the agreement.

ANSWER: Since the inception of TSA, Administrators have issued various determinations dictating the framework of collective bargaining for the screening workforce. In 2025, when the Administration changed, Secretary Noem issued a new Determination dated February 27, 2025. The 2025 Determination held that individuals carrying out the security screening function under 44901 of Title 49, United States Code, shall not, as a term or condition of their employment, be entitled to engage in collective bargaining, be represented for the purpose of engaging in such bargaining by any representative or organization, or be exclusively represented for purposes other than collective bargaining by any representative or organization. As a result, the 2025 Determination rescinded the 2022 Determination and the May 2024 Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Attachment A to Peters Question 9

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN
THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY (DHS)
AND
THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE (DoD)
FOR
DoD SUPPORT AT NAVAL STATION GUANTANAMO BAY (NSGB) TO U.S.
IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT (ICE) FOR DHS/ICE DETENTION OF
ILLEGAL ALIENS SUBJECT TO FINAL ORDERS OF REMOVAL

This is a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between DHS, through ICE, and DoD. When referred to collectively, DHS and DoD are referred to as the "Parties."

1. BACKGROUND: On January 20, 2025, the President, in Executive Order (EO) 14165, "Securing Our Borders," directed the Secretary of Homeland Security to "take all appropriate actions to detain, to the fullest extent permitted by law, aliens apprehended for violations of immigration law until their successful removal from the United States."¹ On January 29, 2025, President Trump directed the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Homeland Security to take all appropriate actions to expand the Migrant Operations Center NSGB to full capacity to provide additional detention space for high-priority criminal aliens unlawfully present in the United States.
2. AUTHORITIES AND REFERENCES: 8 U.S.C. § 1231(g); EO 14165, "Securing Our Borders," January 20, 2025; EO 14159, "Protecting the American People Against Invasion," January 20, 2025; Memorandum for the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Homeland Security, "Expanding Migrant Operations Center Naval Station Guantanamo Bay to Full Capacity," January 29, 2025.
3. PURPOSE: This MOU clarifies the Parties' respective roles and responsibilities related to custody and detention at NSGB of illegal aliens with final orders of removal (NSGB IAs). Consistent with DoD's authority to provide base of operations support for the purpose of facilitating counterdrug activities or activities to counter transnational organized crime of any Federal law enforcement agency within or outside the United States (10 U.S.C. § 284(b)(4)), DHS/ICE will detain at NSGB illegal aliens with a nexus to a transnational criminal organization (TCO) or criminal drug activity. This nexus can be satisfied by an alien being a member of a TCO or paying a TCO to be smuggled into the United States. Aliens subject to a final order but for whom no clear connection or nexus to TCOs or criminal drug activity exists (e.g., those who overstay their visa) will not be moved to NSGB. When the nature of an

¹ Additionally, Executive Order 14159 provides:
 In Section 9: "[T]he Secretary of Homeland Security shall promptly take appropriate action to use all other provisions of the immigration laws or any other Federal law, including, but not limited to sections 238 and 240(d) of the INA (8 U.S.C. 1228 and 1229a(d)), to ensure the efficient and expedited removal of aliens from the United States."
 In Section 10: "Detention Facilities. The Secretary of Homeland Security shall promptly take all appropriate action and allocate all legally available resources or establish contracts to construct, operate, control, or use facilities to detain removable aliens. The Secretary of Homeland Security, further, shall take all appropriate actions to ensure the detention of aliens apprehended for violations of immigration law pending the outcome of their removal proceedings or their removal from the country, to the extent permitted by law."

alien's entry into the United States is uncertain, DHS/ICE may assert a nexus where DHS/ICE reasonably believes the alien to have paid a TCO to be smuggled into the United States if the alien is from a country where the preponderance of aliens from that country enter the United States in that fashion.

4. UNDERSTANDINGS OF THE PARTIES:

4.1. DHS/ICE—

- 4.1.1. Consistent with the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), has legal custody of NSGB IAs and is responsible for the custody of detained aliens for administrative purposes related to immigration law violations and will fulfill these responsibilities through the direction of DHS personnel and DHS contractor personnel. This includes ensuring custody conditions for NSGB IAs are appropriate and determining which NSGB IAs are considered "high threat" for housing at Camp VI.
- 4.1.2. Accepts the conditions at NSGB detention sites (JTF Building VI and the Migrant Operations Center) as adequate for holding and DHS/ICE exercising legal custody and detention of NSGB IAs. (ICE representatives have assessed these sites as suitable for adults only; minors will not be moved to NSGB at any point).
- 4.1.3. Will provide necessary DHS/ICE guidance and training to DoD personnel at NSGB assisting DHS/ICE in fulfilling DHS/ICE's responsibility to exercise legal custody and detention of NSGB IAs.
- 4.1.4. Understands that DoD will use as standards, as an interim solution, for support to DHS/ICE detention of NSGB IAs as contained in DoD Instruction 1325.07, "Administration of Military Correctional Facilities and Clemency and Parole Programs," and Army Regulation 190-47, "The Army Corrections System," with appropriate exceptions, and adjusted by USSOUTHCOM's Joint Task Force Southern Guard (JTF-SG) based on capabilities and assets currently present. Within 15 days from the effective date of this MOU, the Parties will agree to standards for detention under DHS/ICE legal custody, to be set forth in an addendum to this MOU. The interim standards shall not apply to the following topics: (1) in person visitation; (2) mandatory work for detained aliens; (3) vocational, training, or other prisoner rehabilitate activities; and (4) public affairs, public access, media relations, requests for information and photography. ICE shall provide guidance related to these topics as needed, consistent with section 4.1.19 and other provisions of this MOU.
- 4.1.5. Will provide an appropriate ratio of DHS/ICE officers to NSGB IAs as mutually determined between the Parties to achieve the responsibilities indicated in this memorandum, and at a minimum, will provide at least two DHS/ICE law enforcement officers or contractors in accordance with DHS/ICE standard operating procedures at the Camp VI detention facility on a 24/7 basis and will provide an appropriate number of DHS/ICE law enforcement officers and interior security in accordance with DHS/ICE standard operating procedures at the hard-sided Migrant Operations Center facility on the leeward side on a 24/7 basis depending on the size of the NSGB IA population.
- 4.1.6. Will conduct any necessary searches of NSGB IAs while recognizing DoD personnel may also undertake searches and other necessary actions for the safety of DoD personnel or facility integrity.
- 4.1.7. Will maintain custody of NSGB IAs' funds, valuables, and other personal property.
- 4.1.8. Will be responsible for providing internal security of NSGB IA holding areas, including determining whether to use restraints on NSGB IAs and placing restraints on NSGB IAs, while recognizing that DoD personnel also may take actions necessary for the safety of DoD personnel, for

facility integrity, or to prevent the detainee from harming self or others, or from causing serious property damage.

- 4.1.9. Will be responsible for the physical custody and directing the movements of NSGB IAs, including movement between detention sites, medical facilities, and airfield/port facilities.
- 4.1.10. Will be responsible for any necessary questioning of NSGB IAs related to immigration matters or offenses not committed on NSGB. Will be responsible for determining and imposing disciplinary actions.
- 4.1.11. Will be responsible for translation, interpretation, and language access for NSGB IAs with limited English proficiency.
- 4.1.12. Will be responsible for NSGB IA transfers, releases, and removals, as well as NSGB IA tracking and records (i.e., will provide a DHS/ICE Operations Center on the leeward side of NSGB for reception, processing, tracking of detention duration, legal status, medical status, and repatriation), and will ensure transfer from NSGB no later than 180 days from the date of final order of removal. This includes transfer for ordered court appearances related to immigration or federal court litigation.
- 4.1.13. Will be responsible for inspection of and restrictions on NSGB IAs' correspondence.
- 4.1.14. Understands DoD will use DoD rules for the use of force unless the Parties agree to another standard. Applicable and agreed-upon rules for the use of force will be shared between the Parties, to ensure DHS/ICE awareness of DoD operational rules.
- 4.1.15. Will be responsible for any involuntary medical treatment, including in response to hunger strikes, or similar measures.
- 4.1.16. Will provide a full-time liaison officer (capable of accepting and responding to ICE/Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) standards reporting and decision-making requirements) to JTF-SG.
- 4.1.17. Will be responsible for having contingency plans, coordinated with JTF-SG, for medical evacuation and follow-on care for detainees who require a higher level of care than is available at NSGB.
- 4.1.18. Will promptly provide information to DoD concerning inquiries from relevant congressional committees.
- 4.1.19. Will approve and coordinate any press access subject to concurrence of the JTF-SG commander and taking into account appropriate security protocols. Due to security and legal concerns, there will be no press access to Camp VI.
- 4.1.20. Will determine the appropriate level of access by NSGB IAs to legal representation, including when, to whom, and under what circumstances such access is granted, in consultation with the JTF-SG commander and taking into account NSGB physical security protocols.
- 4.1.21. Will assign a DHS/ICE officer to collect and communicate grievances and requests from NSGB IAs. DHS/ICE and JTF-SG will concurrently agree upon resolution of grievances and requests, taking into account DHS/ICE policies, procedures, and JTF-SG security protocols.

- 4.1.22. Will coordinate with DoD before deployment of contractor personnel to execute any portion of this MOU.
- 4.1.23. Will provide JTF-SG with a daily update on the number of NSGB IAs, including the number received, the number repatriated, a 72-hour repatriation schedule as feasible, and duration information (total days in DHS/ICE custody/detention and total days since arrival at NSGB).
- 4.1.24. Will provide select services to NSGB IAs (e.g., recreation, religious services) in accordance with DHS/ICE policy and as practicable within the existing infrastructure at NSGB.

4.2. DoD, through U.S. Southern Command (USSOUTHCOM)—

- 4.2.1. Will provide an existing secure facility on the windward side of NSGB to DHS/ICE for holding “high threat” NSGB IAs (“Camp VI”).
- 4.2.2. Will provide DHS/ICE with soft structures (tents) to hold other NSGB IAs. These tents do not have power, lighting, or heating/air conditioning. DoD will provide lighting in the common areas outside the tents and at appropriate locations near perimeter fencing. Climate control requirements will be developed as agreed upon by the Parties.
- 4.2.3. Will provide preventative health services and first aid along with additional emergency medical care, as appropriate and subject to capability and availability, for DHS and ICE personnel and NSGB IAs.
- 4.2.4. Will provide perimeter security and facility access/security.
- 4.2.5. Will be responsible for determining the maximum number of NSGB IAs who can be accommodated at all locations on NSGB, taking into account DHS/ICE legal custody requirements.
- 4.2.6. Will provide a sufficient number of toilets and hygiene facilities to ensure the clean, safe, and sanitary operation of camps depending on the number of NSGB IAs.
- 4.2.7. Will make adequate facilities and access to such facilities available, as agreed to in an addendum to this memorandum, for the transportation of DHS/ICE personnel and contractors supporting execution of this memorandum to and from NSGB, and make available lodging/berthing for DHS/ICE personnel and contractors once at NSGB.
- 4.2.8. Will support DHS/ICE in the provision of an appropriate level of access by NSGB IAs to legal representation as determined by DHS/ICE in coordination with DoD under 4.1.20.

5. PERSONNEL: Each Party is responsible for all personnel costs, including pay and benefits, support, and travel. Each Party is also responsible for supervising and managing its personnel, except as necessary for DHS/ICE to provide guidance to DoD personnel as part of DHS/ICE’s responsibility to exercise legal custody and detention of NSGB IAs.

6. GENERAL PROVISIONS:

- 6.1. **POINTS OF CONTACT (POCs).** The Parties will use the following POCs to communicate matters concerning this MOU. Each Party may change its POC upon reasonable notice to the other Party.

6.1.1. For DHS/ICE—

6.1.1.1 Position, office identification, phone number, and email of primary POC: Robert Paschall, Deputy Under Secretary, DHS Office of Strategy, Policy, and Plans, 202-807-8196, robert.paschall@hq.dhs.gov

6.1.1.2. Position, office identification, phone number, and email of alternate POC: Ihsan Gunduz, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Border and Immigration Policy, DHS Office of Strategy, Policy, and Plans, 202-893-2367, ihsan.gunduz@hq.dhs.gov

6.1.2. For DoD—

6.1.2.1 Position, office identification, phone number, and email of primary POC: Rafael Leonardo, Performing the Duties of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense and Hemispheric Affairs, 703-697-7728, Rafael.f.leonardo.civ@mail.mil

6.1.2.2. Position, office identification, phone number, and email of alternate POC: Leigh Nolan, Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense and Hemispheric Affairs, 703-697-7728, Leigh.e.nolan.civ@mail.mil

6.2. CORRESPONDENCE. All correspondence to be sent and notices to be given pursuant to this MOU will be addressed, if to the ICE, to—

6.2.1. juan.agudelo@ice.dhs.gov and, if to the DHS POLICY, to—

6.2.2. borderpolicy@hq.dhs.gov

6.3. FUNDS AND MANPOWER. This MOU neither documents nor provides for the exchange of funds or manpower between the Parties, nor does it commit funds or resources. No provision in this MOU will be interpreted to require obligation or payment of funds. Reimbursable expenses will be addressed separately. No provision of this MOU shall be interpreted to require obligation or payment of funds in violation of the Anti-deficiency Act, 31 U.S.C. § 1341, or any other applicable law. All activities contemplated by this MOU are subject to the availability of funds.

6.4. MODIFICATION OF MOU. This MOU may be modified at any time in response to a written request from authorized representatives of one of the Parties. Otherwise, it will be reviewed no less often than every six months of its effective date in its entirety. For DoD, the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy may approve modifications to, addendums to, and extensions of this MOU. For DHS, the Under Secretary of Strategy, Policy, and Plan may approve modifications to, addendums to, and extensions of this MOU.

6.5. DISPUTES. Any disputes relating to this MOU will subject to any applicable law, Executive Order, or DoD issuances, and will be resolved by consultation between the Parties.

6.6. TERMINATION OF UNDERSTANDING. This MOU may be terminated in writing by mutual agreement of the Parties or with 90 days' advance written notice by either Party.

6.7. TRANSFERABILITY. This MOU is not transferable except with the written consent of the Parties.

6.8. EFFECTIVE DATE. This MOU takes effect on the day after the last Party signs.

6.9. EXPIRATION DATE. This MOU expires on March 15, 2026.

6.10. NO THIRD-PARTY BENEFICIARIES. Nothing in this MOU, express or implied, is intended to

give to, or will be construed to confer upon, any person, not a party, any remedy or claim under or because of this MOU, and this MOU will be for the sole and exclusive benefit of the Parties.

7. DEFINITIONS:

7.1. "High threat" is a security category determined by DHS and is synonymous with other terms such as Maximum security, High-risk.

7.2 Detention Sites

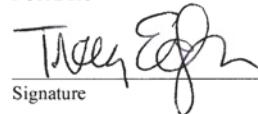
7.2.1. "Hard Structure" detention facility on the Windward side is referred to as Camp VI.

7.2.2. The Migrant Operations Center is a DHS "Hard Structure" facility, not designed for high threat detention, on the Leeward side.

7.2.3. "Soft structure" detention facilities refer to Philips, Macalla, and Golf Course Camps and respective sub-camps.

APPROVED:

FOR DHS—


Signature

FOR DoD—


Signature

Troy D. Edgar, Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security Robert G. Salesses, Performing the Duties of
The U.S. Department of Homeland Security Deputy Secretary of Defense

7 March 2025 (Date)

7 March 2025 (Date)

Attachment B to Peters Question 9

*OUSD(Comptroller) Guidance to USSOUTHCOM for Attributing Costs at NSGB to
Title 10 U.S.C. § 284 Activities / DoD's Counterdrug Appropriation*

In general:

- Expenses incurred in support of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) detention operations at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay (NSGB) through making available DoD-organic (not contracted) equipment and facilities, as well as making available DoD personnel to operate or maintain equipment, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. § 272 and § 274, may be properly charged to O&M or MILPERS accounts, as appropriate.
- Expenses incurred in support of DHS at NSGB detention operations at NSGB beyond the above categories must be categorized under a different authority. To the extent that such expenses are for activities to operate and maintain a base of operations on behalf of DHS's detention mission, they should be categorized as incurred under 10 U.S.C. § 284(b)(4) and resourced solely with funds from DoD's Drug Interdiction and Counter-Drug Activities appropriation.
- DoD activities in support of DHS at NSGB properly categorized as accomplished pursuant to 10 U.S.C. § 284(b)(4) include DoD's acquisition of goods or services for such support, or its provision of DoD-organic services not consisting of the operation or maintenance of equipment provided in support of DHS—to include the provision of medical services beyond emergency health care.

The above could be further translated to:

- DoD transportation and TDY costs, Civ and Mil pay, operating supplies for DoD personnel, etc. – these are all normal appropriations charges, expended pursuant the components inherent authority to execute DoD missions – i.e., either staging at NSGB per SD guidance, executing Caribbean Migration EO exercise, or fulfilling support to DHS under 10 U.S.C. §§ 272/274 and non-reimbursable via § 277. These are not performed under 10 USC § 284 or charged to CD appropriations.
- Transportation of migrants & DHS personnel—all normal appropriations, executed under §§ 272/274, and non-reimbursable under § 277.
- Medical care to anyone not DoD (migrants or DHS) other than emergency care is per § 284 & charged to CD.
- Acquisition of any goods or services to support DHS (i.e., medical supplies) is per § 284 & charged to CD. For contracted services that fulfill requirements for both DoD personnel and DHS/migrant population (e.g., laundry services, dining facility

operations), the portion of the costs attributed to DHS/migrant population is per § 284 & charged to CD.

Attachment to Peters Question 23

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| Region | Grantee | Agency | Submission Date | Reimbursement Total |
|--------------------------|--|---|-----------------|---------------------|
| Atlanta | City of Atlanta | City of Atlanta Emergency Preparedness | 3/17/2025 | \$1,237,883.72 |
| Atlanta | City of Atlanta | City of Atlanta Emergency Preparedness | 4/3/2025 | \$260,515.08 |
| Bay Area - San Francisco | City and County of San Francisco | City and County of San Francisco Emergency Management | 4/22/2025 | \$412,083.00 |
| Boston | City of Boston | City of Boston Police Department | 5/19/2025 | \$801,600.90 |
| Chicago | City of Chicago Fire Department | City of Chicago Fire Department | 3/13/2025 | \$26,035.05 |
| Chicago | City of Chicago Fire Department | City of Chicago Fire Department | 2/21/2025 | \$31,671.58 |
| Chicago | City of Chicago Fire Department | City of Chicago Fire Department | 2/21/2025 | \$428,669.98 |
| Chicago | City of Chicago Fire Department | City of Chicago Fire Department | 2/21/2025 | \$11,342.25 |
| Chicago | City of Chicago Fire Department | City of Chicago Fire Department | 4/2/2025 | \$30,632.53 |
| Chicago | City of Chicago Fire Department | City of Chicago Fire Department | 4/28/2025 | \$631,394.50 |
| Chicago | City of Chicago Fire Department | City of Chicago Fire Department | 4/18/2025 | \$31,575.29 |
| Denver | City and County of Denver | City and County of Denver Emergency Management | 4/18/2025 | \$32,921.01 |
| Denver | City and County of Denver | City and County of Denver Emergency Management | 3/19/2025 | \$144,606.10 |
| Los Angeles-Long Beach | City of Los Angeles | City of Los Angeles Public Safety | 3/13/2025 | \$36,217.71 |
| Los Angeles-Long Beach | City of Los Angeles | City of Los Angeles Public Safety | 4/3/2025 | \$121,776.70 |
| Los Angeles-Long Beach | City of Los Angeles | City of Los Angeles Public Safety | 4/29/2025 | \$85,203.08 |
| Miami - Fort Lauderdale | City of Miami | City of Miami Fire-Rescue | 3/18/2025 | \$41,107.69 |
| Miami - Fort Lauderdale | City of Miami | City of Miami Fire-Rescue | 4/8/2025 | \$48,147.97 |
| Miami - Fort Lauderdale | City of Miami | City of Miami Fire-Rescue | 3/24/2025 | \$235,888.68 |
| Miami - Fort Lauderdale | City of Miami | City of Miami Fire-Rescue | 3/11/2025 | \$48,334.54 |
| National Capital Region | DC Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency | DC Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency | 3/21/2025 | \$47,897.90 |
| National Capital Region | DC Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency | DC Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency | 4/28/2025 | \$441,687.58 |

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|--|-----------|-----------------------|
| New Orleans | City of New Orleans | City of New Orleans Emergency Management | 3/11/2025 | \$291,495.45 |
| New Orleans | City of New Orleans | City of New Orleans Emergency Management | 4/30/2025 | \$89,958.69 |
| New York - New Jersey | City of New York Police Department | City of New York Police Department | 4/9/2025 | \$1,167,770.58 |
| Phoenix | Maricopa County Emergency Management | Maricopa County Emergency Management | 3/10/2025 | \$8,452.64 |
| Phoenix | Maricopa County Emergency Management | Maricopa County Emergency Management | 4/28/2025 | \$418,604.06 |
| Phoenix | Maricopa County Emergency Management | Maricopa County Emergency Management | 5/9/2025 | \$16,489.72 |
| Seattle | City of Seattle | City of Seattle Police Department | 4/29/2025 | \$103,756.52 |
| | | | | \$7,283,720.50 |

Post-Hearing Questions for the Record
Submitted to Secretary Kristi Noem, Department of Homeland Security
From Senator Maggie Hassan

Full Committee Hearing:
The Department of Homeland Security's Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2026
May 20, 2025

1. Given higher tariffs and their related impacts, receivers may experience a shift in prices of goods and services. This may lead some receivers to refuse to pay tariffs on goods upon their arrival into the U.S.
 - a. Who will be liable for these tariffs if U.S. companies refuse to pay?

Response: The importer of record for both formal and informal entries is liable for the payment of all duties, taxes, and fees attached to an importation. An “importer of record” pursuant to 19 U.S.C. § 1484(a)(2)(B) is defined as the owner or purchaser of the goods, or when designated by the owner, purchaser, or consignee, a licensed customs broker. The importer of record is liable for payment of all duties, taxes, and fees for both formally and informally entered merchandise. A formal entry is required for all merchandise valued over \$2,500, and merchandise subject to antidumping or countervailing duties. An informal entry, commonly referred to as a type 11 entry, may be filed for merchandise valued under \$2,500. For both such formal and informal entries, the right to make entry is vested with the owner or purchaser, and a consignee must obtain the services of a licensed customs broker to make entry. If the importer of record fails to tender the estimated duties, taxes, and fees payable at entry summary, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) may assess liquidated damages. If the importer of record fails to timely pay the final computation of duties, taxes, and fees payable at entry summary, interest will accrue and CBP may pursue collection through various means.

- b. What measures will CBP take to ensure that tariffs are collected from responsible parties?

Response: CBP requires a bond for all formally entered merchandise, using formal entry and certain informally entered merchandise. A basic and informal entry bond guarantees types, when payment of the duties, taxes, and fees owed by a surety in the event the importer of record defaults on its obligation is not made prior to tender payment release from CBP custody. In situations in which the importer of record does not pay the required duties, taxes and fees, CBP will collect against the bond from a surety. In certain circumstances, CBP may seek to collect against the assets held by an importer of record by pursuing a judgement in court.

- c. Will treatment differ for international postal carriers versus other carriers into the U.S.?

Response: Yes, a separate process for collecting tariffs in the postal environment has been established. For shipments of postal packages containing goods that are products of China, CBP requires the carrier transporting the international postal package into the United States to remit

payment of the duty described in subsections 2(b) and 2(c) of Executive Order 14256 to CBP. CBP and the United States Postal Service are collectively working on a long-term solution that would allow informal entries to be filed for postal packages in the Automated Commercial Environment and pay applicable duties, taxes, and fees directly to CBP.

To ensure that duty is collected from responsible parties, any carrier who transports international postal packages from the People's Republic of China or Hong Kong to the United States, by any mode of transportation, must have an activity code 3 - international carrier single transaction or continuous bond on file and active in Automated Commercial Environment eBond to ensure payment of the duty in accordance with subsections 2(b) and 2(c) of Executive Order 14256. The amount of such bond must equal or exceed the following guidelines:

Continuous bond: The minimum continuous international carrier bond amount for any carrier who transports international postal packages from the People's Republic of China or Hong Kong to the United States, by any mode of transportation, is \$50,000 or 10 percent of the total duties due on such packages over the previous 12-month period, whichever is greater. If no duties were due in the previous 12-month period, the minimum bond amount is \$50,000 or 10 percent of the duties on such packages that the bond principal estimates will accrue during the next 12-month period, whichever is greater. In no event can the bond amount be less than \$50,000.

Single transaction bond: The minimum single transaction international carrier bond amount for any carrier who transports international postal packages from the People's Republic of China or Hong Kong to the United States, by any mode of transportation, is 100 percent of the value of the shipment plus 100 percent of the duties due on the shipment.

If the carrier is conducting other activities that are also required to be secured by the international carrier bond, the required international carrier bond amount to ensure the payment of the duty described in Executive Order 14256 will be in addition to the bond amount otherwise required under sections 6.4.6 and 6.4.7 of A Guide for the Public: How CBP Sets Bond Amounts

- d. What action is CBP taking to assist companies impacted by the potential increase in uncollected tariffs?

Response: CBP is issuing guidance for every new tariff action to ensure that requirements are available to the importing public, along with regularly updating the Frequently Asked Questions to the Trade Remedy page of CBP.gov: <https://www.cbp.gov/trade/programs-administration/trade-remedies>.

2. Please provide to my office the number of new investigations initiated by HSI each month in FY2024 and FY2025 to date involving the following types of crimes:
 - a. Imposter scams, including but not limited to romance, government impersonation, employment, and tech support schemes;

Response: U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations tracks general financial fraud scheme investigations. The number of financial

fraud scheme investigations initiated each month by Homeland Security Investigations in Fiscal Years 2024/2025 and tech support schemes is listed below:

| FY 24 | MONTH | CASES INITIATED |
|---------------------|-----------|-----------------|
| | OCTOBER | 40 |
| | NOVEMBER | 22 |
| | DECEMBER | 20 |
| | JANUARY | 38 |
| | FEBRUARY | 32 |
| | MARCH | 41 |
| | APRIL | 32 |
| | MAY | 32 |
| | JUNE | 32 |
| | JULY | 24 |
| | AUGUST | 28 |
| | SEPTEMBER | 22 |
| 2024 - Total | | 363 |

| FY 25 | MONTH | CASES INITIATED |
|---------------------|----------|-----------------|
| | OCTOBER | 56 |
| | NOVEMBER | 22 |
| | DECEMBER | 21 |
| | JANUARY | 25 |
| | FEBRUARY | 24 |
| | MARCH | 21 |
| | APRIL | 24 |
| | MAY | 26 |
| 2025 - Total | | 219 |

- a. The use of fake podcasts for the illicit sale of drugs;

Response: Homeland Security Investigations is not aware of widespread use of podcasts (fake or otherwise) to facilitate the sale of illicit drugs. Homeland Security Investigations, however, will study this issue and take appropriate action.

- b. Cryptocurrency and dark web crimes;

Response: The number of cryptocurrency investigations initiated each month by Homeland Security Investigations in Fiscal Years 2024 and 2025 is listed below:

| FY 24 | MONTH | CASES INITIATED |
|-------|----------|-----------------|
| | OCTOBER | 36 |
| | NOVEMBER | 20 |
| | DECEMBER | 22 |
| | JANUARY | 30 |
| | FEBRUARY | 36 |
| | MARCH | 37 |
| | APRIL | 29 |
| | MAY | 37 |
| | JUNE | 30 |

| FY 25 | MONTH | CASES INITIATED |
|---------------------|----------|-----------------|
| | OCTOBER | 43 |
| | NOVEMBER | 15 |
| | DECEMBER | 27 |
| | JANUARY | 23 |
| | FEBRUARY | 26 |
| | MARCH | 65 |
| | APRIL | 30 |
| | MAY | 29 |
| 2025 - Total | | 258 |

| | |
|---------------------|------------|
| JULY | 21 |
| AUGUST | 17 |
| SEPTEMBER | 24 |
| 2024 - Total | 339 |

- c. Network intrusions and data breaches;

Response: The number of dark web investigations initiated each month by Homeland Security Investigations in Fiscal Years 2024 and 2025 is listed below:

| FY 24 | MONTH | CASES INITIATED |
|---------------------|-----------|-----------------|
| | OCTOBER | 11 |
| | NOVEMBER | 4 |
| | DECEMBER | 3 |
| | JANUARY | 6 |
| | FEBRUARY | 5 |
| | MARCH | 8 |
| | APRIL | 7 |
| | MAY | 6 |
| | JUNE | 4 |
| | JULY | 4 |
| | AUGUST | 2 |
| | SEPTEMBER | 4 |
| 2024 - Total | | 64 |

| FY 25 | MONTH | CASES INITIATED |
|---------------------|----------|-----------------|
| | OCTOBER | 6 |
| | NOVEMBER | 3 |
| | DECEMBER | 1 |
| | JANUARY | 1 |
| | FEBRUARY | 4 |
| | MARCH | 6 |
| | APRIL | 5 |
| | MAY | 1 |
| 2025 - Total | | 27 |

- d. Malware and ransomware attacks.

Response: The number of network intrusion/ransomware investigations initiated each month by Homeland Security Investigations in Fiscal Years 2024 and 2025 is listed below:

| FY 24 | Month | CASES INITIATED |
|---------------------|-----------|-----------------|
| | OCTOBER | 51 |
| | NOVEMBER | 51 |
| | DECEMBER | 31 |
| | JANUARY | 26 |
| | FEBRUARY | 34 |
| | MARCH | 39 |
| | APRIL | 32 |
| | MAY | 59 |
| | JUNE | 36 |
| | JULY | 30 |
| | AUGUST | 18 |
| | SEPTEMBER | 30 |
| 2024 - Total | | 437 |

| FY 25 | Month | CASES INITIATED |
|---------------------|----------|-----------------|
| | OCTOBER | 48 |
| | NOVEMBER | 37 |
| | DECEMBER | 29 |
| | JANUARY | 33 |
| | FEBRUARY | 13 |
| | MARCH | 17 |
| | APRIL | 5 |
| | MAY | 4 |
| 2025 - Total | | 186 |

Please provide to my office the number of referrals from HSI to any international, federal, state, or local law enforcement agencies, by type of referral, for each month in FY 2024 and FY2025 to date, including the number of such referrals that involve:

3. Please provide to my office the number of referrals from HSI to any international, federal, state, or local law enforcement agencies, by type of referral, for each month in FY 2024 and FY2025 to date, including the number of such referrals that involve:
 - a. Imposter scams, including but not limited to romance, government impersonation, employment, and tech support schemes;

Response: Homeland Security Investigations does not track metrics or statistics related to referrals to international, federal, state, or local on romance, government impersonation, employment, and tech support schemes.

- a. The use of fake podcasts for the illicit sale of drugs;

Response: Homeland Security Investigations was not aware of the fake podcasts (fake or otherwise to facilitate the sale of illicit drugs. Homeland Security Investigations, however, will study this issue and take appropriate action.

- b. Cryptocurrency and dark web crimes;

Response: Homeland Security Investigations generally does not refer cryptocurrency and dark web crimes to other law enforcement partners, as Homeland Security Investigations has the

authority and capacity to investigate these crimes. However, due to its global nature, Homeland Security Investigations frequently collaborates with international, federal, state, and local law enforcement partners. Homeland Security Investigations is a significant contributor to the Federal Bureau of Investigation-led Joint Criminal Opioid Darknet Enforcement team. The Joint Criminal Opioid Darknet Enforcement team is a multi-agency initiative focused on combatting opioid and other dangerous contraband trafficking on the dark web. Most of Homeland Security Investigations' international collaboration on these efforts is coordinated through the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol), and its member agencies.

- c. Network intrusion and data breach crimes;

Response: Homeland Security Investigations does not generally send referrals to law enforcement partners for network intrusion and data breach crimes as Homeland Security Investigations has the authority and capacity to investigate these crimes and frequently collaborates on joint investigations with international, federal, state, and local law enforcement partners. For these specific types of crimes, we routinely coordinate activity with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Secret Service, and the DHS Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA). Most of Homeland Security Investigations' international collaboration on these efforts is coordinated through Europol and its member agencies. In Fiscal Year 2024, the DHS Cyber Crimes Center sent 24 breach notifications to CISA. In Fiscal Year 2025, as of June 16, 2025, there have been five notifications sent to the CISA. These partnerships and collaborative efforts culminate in leads sent to CISA when they are in an area of responsibility where Homeland Security Investigations lacks bandwidth and expertise to make appropriate notification.

- d. Malware and ransomware attacks.

Response: As noted above, the breach notifications Homeland Security Investigations shares with CISA are part of a pre-ransomware notification program. Statistics for these types of leads are the same as the response in 2d.

- 4. As cybercrimes increase, it is important that HSI has sufficient personnel and resources to combat them. Please provide the following information:
 - a. The number of staff and contractors working at HSI's Cyber Crimes Center (C3) by job function, broken down by fiscal year since FY2023, including whether such employees were permanently or temporarily assigned.

Response: For Fiscal Year 2025,¹ DHS's Cyber Crimes Center has 105 full-time employees, including student volunteers. All positions are permanent, excluding the student volunteers. Breakouts are provided below for each fiscal year.

¹ As of May 20, 2025.

Fiscal Year 2025

| | |
|-------------------------|------------|
| BUSINESS OPS SPECL | 1 |
| CHIEF INTEL OFCR | 1 |
| COMP FORENSIC ANALYST | 8 |
| CRIM INVSTGR | 8 |
| CRIM RESEARCH OFCR | 1 |
| CRIM RESEARCH SPECLST | 1 |
| CYBER OPER OFCR | 3 |
| DEP ASST DIR | 1 |
| DIVISION CHIEF | 1 |
| FORENSIC ANALYST | 1 |
| INV MGMT SPECL | 1 |
| INVEST ANALYST | 17 |
| IT CYBER SECURITY SPECL | 5 |
| MGMT & PRGM ANALYST | 12 |
| MISS SUPT SPECLST | 5 |
| PRGM MGR | 20 |
| SECTION CHIEF | 9 |
| UNIT CHIEF | 3 |
| VOL-STDNT | 2 |
| 18-Month LTTDY | 5 |
| TOTAL: | 105 |

Fiscal Year 2024

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| BUSINESS OPS SPECL | 1 |
| CHIEF INTEL OFCR | 1 |
| COMP FORENSIC ANALYST | 7 |
| CRIM INVSTGR | 5 |
| CRIM RESEARCH OFCR | 2 |
| CRIM RESEARCH SPECLST | 1 |
| CYBER OPER OFCR | 5 |
| DEP ASST DIR | 1 |
| FORENSIC ANALYST | 2 |
| INTEL RES SPECLST | 15 |
| INV MGMT SPECL | 1 |
| IT CYBER SECURITY SPECL | 2 |
| MGMT & PRGM ANALYST | 11 |
| MISS SUPT SPECLST | 5 |
| PRGM MGR | 23 |
| SECTION CHIEF | 7 |
| UNIT CHIEF | 3 |
| 18-Month LTTDY | 6 |
| TOTAL: | 98 |

Fiscal Year 2023

| | |
|---------------------------------|----|
| COMP FORENSIC ANALYST | 5 |
| COMP FORENSIC ANALYST (TRAINEE) | 1 |
| CRIM INVSTGR | 5 |
| CRIM RESEARCH OFCR | 2 |
| CRIM RESEARCH SPECLST | 1 |
| CYBER OPER OFCR | 5 |
| DEP ASST DIR | 1 |
| DIVISION CHIEF | 1 |
| FORENSIC ANALYST | 2 |
| INTEL RES SPECLST | 9 |
| INV MGMT SPECL | 1 |
| IT CYBER SECURITY SPECL | 3 |
| MGMT & PRGM ANALYST | 7 |
| MISS SUPT SPECLST | 1 |
| PRGM MGR | 16 |
| SECTION CHIEF | 7 |
| UNIT CHIEF | 3 |
| 18-Month LTTDY | 6 |

| | |
|---------------|----|
| TOTAL: | 76 |
|---------------|----|

For contractor personnel, there are a total of 128 cleared contractors that support the Cyber Crimes Center in various areas of the cyber mission, based upon the scope of their contract. These numbers have remained consistent over the last three years. A general breakout is provided below.

| | |
|--|-----|
| Forensics and Analytical Support | 30 |
| Forensic Data Analysis/Operational Support | 39 |
| Application Development/Infrastructure | 13 |
| Blockchain Analysis | 4 |
| Know2Protect Campaign Support | 27 |
| Blockchain Analysis and Training | 5 |
| Analytics/Trend Analysis/Operational Support | 10 |
| TOTAL: | 128 |

- The number of staff and contractors assigned to HSI C3 on TDY as of May 20, 2025.

Response: As of May 20, 2025, there are five full-time employees on temporary duty at Homeland Security Investigations at the Cyber Crimes Center. No contractors are on temporary duty.

- The number of staff and contractor vacancies at HSI C3 as of May 20, 2025.

Response: There are currently 65 staff vacancies at the Cyber Crimes Center, inclusive of student volunteers and Human Exploitation Rescue Operative volunteers. There are 25 additional staff vacancies that are pending entry on duty dates or with security for clearance/onboarding. There are no current contractor vacancies.

- The number of job postings for open positions at HSI C3 as of May 20, 2025, including both federal employee and contractor positions.

Response: There are no current federal job postings on USAJobs, excluding a joint duty assignment posted for an immigration officer for the Cyber Crimes Unit. There are no current openings for contractors at the Cyber Crimes Center.

5. In May 2025, CNN and Business Insider reported on the presence of hundreds of fake podcasts hosted on Spotify that have advertised illicit sales of drugs ranging from methadone to Ambien, in some cases claiming that users can illegally purchase drugs without a prescription.

- a. When did HSI become aware of fake podcasts on Spotify being used to sell drugs illegally?

Response: Homeland Security Investigations was not aware of fake podcasts on Spotify or any other streaming service. As a result of this issue, Homeland Security Investigations is coordinating internally to address fake podcasts for any potential criminal violations.

Question: Is HSI currently, or has HSI been previously, involved in any investigations related to fake Spotify podcasts being used for the illicit sale of medications? Please provide the number of investigations by fiscal year and indicate the number of such investigations for which HSI is the lead investigative agency.

Response: Homeland Security Investigations is not aware of any such investigations.

Question: Have representatives of Spotify or any other streaming service proactively sought assistance from HSI in combatting the illegal sale of medications via fake podcasts or other fake streamed content? Please characterize HSI's engagement with Spotify regarding this issue.

Response: Homeland Security Investigations is not aware of any interactions with Spotify or any other streaming service.

Question: What commitments, if any, has Spotify made regarding cooperation with law enforcement and/or new safeguards to prevent the illicit sale of medication?

Response: Homeland Security Investigations is not aware of any such commitments.

Question: Is HSI aware of any other video, music, podcast, or other streaming services (e.g., SoundCloud, YouTube, Apple Podcasts) hosting similar content? If so, please identify any such streaming services and describe HSI engagement with these entities to date.

Response: Homeland Security Investigations is not aware of other streaming services hosting similar content.

Post-Hearing Questions for the Record
Submitted to the Honorable Kristi Noem
From Senator Richard Blumenthal

The Department of Homeland Security's Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2026
Tuesday, May 20, 2025

1. During the hearing, I asked you about the “Processing of Pregnant, and Postpartum Noncitizens and Infants” policy issued by Customs and Border Protection (CBP) on January 28, 2022, and rescinded on May 5, 2025. In CBP’s rescission memorandum, CBP stated that the aforementioned policy is “obsolete or misaligned with current Agency guidance and immigration enforcement priorities.”
 - a. Please provide a copy of the “Processing of Pregnant, and Postpartum Noncitizens and Infants” policy issued by CBP on January 28, 2022.

Response: Please see Attachment A.

- b. What specifically about the “Processing of Pregnant, and Postpartum Noncitizens and Infants” policy is obsolete or misaligned with current Agency guidance and immigration enforcement priorities?

Response: On January 28, 2022, then-Commissioner Chris Magnus issued the memorandum, “Processing of Pregnant, and Postpartum Noncitizens and Infants.” This policy specifically pertained to U.S. Customs and Border Protection’s (CBP) processing under the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Title 42 public health order. The Title 42 order expired on May 11, 2023, at the termination of the COVID-19 public health emergency. As such, policies and procedures developed under the Title 42 framework are no longer applicable.

- c. A memorandum was issued by CBP on August 18, 2021, entitled “Pregnancy and Childbirth Guidance.” Does the guidance outlined in this memorandum remain in effect?
 - i. *If not*, what current policies and procedures govern the identification, care, and treatment of pregnant, postpartum, nursing individuals, and infants in CBP custody?

Response: Yes, that memorandum is still in effect.

- d. On November 21, 2021, CBP issued “Policy Statement and Required Actions Regarding Pregnant, Postpartum, Nursing Individuals, and Infants in Custody.” Does this policy remain in effect?
 - i. *If not*, what current policies and procedures govern the identification, care, and treatment of pregnant, postpartum, nursing individuals, and infants in

CBP custody?

Response: Yes, that policy is still in effect.

- e. How many pregnant, postpartum, nursing individuals, and infants are currently in CBP custody?

Response: On May 20, 2025, there were a known total of six pregnant women and one infant in CBP custody. CBP does not record the number of postpartum or nursing women in its custody.

Reporting on pregnancy status is based on self-disclosure or observable information, and may therefore be incomplete or subject to underreporting.

- 2. During the hearing, I asked you about a Wall Street Journal article from May 16, 2025, in which DHS spokeswoman Tricia McLaughlin said a proposed television reality show in which immigrants would compete for U.S. Citizenship was “in the very beginning stages of [a] vetting process.”¹ Your answer to me was, “There may have been something submitted to the department, but I did not know anything about this reality show, until the reporter reached out. We told him we have no knowledge of it. We don’t know what he’s talking about and they still printed wrong information. . . So that article, in fact, they had to change it later because they lied so bad and they had us on the record saying I had no knowledge of a reality show, the department didn’t.” As of the time I asked you this question on May 20, 2025, the Wall Street Journal article retained its quote from your spokeswoman and no updates have been made to the article since May 16, 2025, at 11:00 am ET, several days prior to the question I posed to you.
 - a. When and how did you first become aware that DHS’ was considering a reality television show in which immigrants would compete for U.S. Citizenship?
 - b. What steps, if any, did you take after becoming aware of the proposed reality television show to verify the authenticity of the proposal?
 - c. On what date and at what time did the Wall Street Journal first contact DHS about the reality television show?
 - d. On what date and at what time did DHS respond to the Wall Street Journal?
 - i. Please provide me with a copy of DHS’ complete response.
 - e. On what date and at what time did you request the Wall Street Journal issue a correction to its story?

¹ Michelle Hackman et al., “DHS Is Considering Reality Show Where Immigrants Compete for Citizenship”, The Wall Street Journal, (last updated May 16, 2025, 11:00 am ET), available at: <https://www.wsj.com/politics/policy/dhs-is-considering-reality-show-where-immigrants-compete-for-citizenship-47dc277c>

- i. Did you specifically request the Wall Street Journal correct the quote of your spokeswoman Tricia McLaughlin?
- ii. Please provide me with a copy of your complete correction request.
- iii. If you requested multiple corrections, please list the date and time of each correction request and provide a copy of each request.
- f. Is DHS currently vetting a proposed television reality show?

Response: As the Secretary said during the hearing, hundreds of proposals are submitted all the time and receive varying levels of consideration. This one was not accepted, and the Secretary found out about it from news reports. The attempt to micromange DHS' public affairs on this matter is clearly political in nature.

- 3. During the hearing, I asked you about public reports indicating that DHS signed an agreement with the Department of State to use \$250 million earmarked by Congress for foreign aid funding to instead remove and return individuals to active conflict zones.²
 - a. Did DHS enter into a \$250 million agreement with the Department of State to use foreign aid allocated funds for the removal of noncitizens?

Response: DHS entered into an Interagency Agreement with the U.S. Department of State for \$250M of Migration and Refugee Assistance funds to implement a voluntary self-departure program for illegal aliens to leave the United States.

- b. Which specific nationalities are being considered for removal under this agreement?
- c. Will you be seeking to remove Afghans under this agreement whose Temporary Protective Status expires on July 14, 2025?
- d. Will you be seeking to remove Haitians under this agreement whose Temporary Protective Status expires on August 3, 2025?
- e. Will you be seeking to remove Ukrainians under this agreement whose Temporary Protective Status expires on October 19, 2026?

Response: Participation in this program is voluntary, and aliens, regardless of their nationalities, may submit their intent to depart the United States through the CBP Home App to establish eligibility and for vetting purposes.

² Adam Taylor & Martine Powers, "Trump proposal to repatriate Ukrainians, Haitians would use foreign aid funds", The Washington Post, (May 20, 2025), available at: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2025/05/20/trump-deportations-ukrainians-haitians/>

4. During the hearing, I asked you how FEMA would continue to meet the needs of Americans when it's losing one-fifth of its workforce. Instead of answering, you said, "You can't convince me that any federal government agency does a better job just because it has more people. More people does not equal a better job. A better job is accountability to people and making sure we're taking care of them." I agree that FEMA should be accountable to and taking care of Americans, but you did not answer my question.
 - a. Please provide the total number of staff who have left or are planning to leave FEMA since January 20, 2025, broken out by job position, location, and reason for departure.

Response: Please see Attachment B.

The spreadsheet includes two tabs: 1. Tab 1 lists all Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) employees who have separated from January 20 to May 31, 2025. 2. Tab 2 provides the numbers of employees who are voluntarily leaving their positions through the Deferred Resignation Program and Workforce Transition Program. The Deferred Resignation Program reflects the government-wide "fork" option offered in January 2025. The Workforce Transition Program enables employees to separate voluntarily before any potential agency restructuring. As requested, the data in the spreadsheet is categorized by job position (Occupational Series), location (Duty Separation), and the reason for the employee's departure, as well as FEMA Program Office.

- b. For each individual covered in part (a), please provide all analyses conducted by DHS and FEMA into how the agencies will function without these individuals. is and modified work plans that show how DHS plans to cover for the roles of these individuals.
- c. If no such analyses exist:
 - i. Do you commit to immediately beginning these workforce analyses?
 - ii. Will you provide me with a copy of the results within six months?
 - iii. How can you assure me that you will continue to serve Americans fully when you haven't even considered the impact of losing these workers?

Response: The President established the FEMA Review Council through Executive Order 14180, and the Secretary is proud to co-chair the Council with Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth. The Council is charged with assessing the adequacy of FEMA's response to disasters and evaluating whether FEMA can still serve its functions as a support agency, providing supplemental federal assistance, to states rather than supplanting state control of disaster relief. While we cannot speculate on what the Council may find or recommend, we are confident that the Council will conduct a full-scale review of FEMA and consider input from organizations and individuals highly experienced at effective disaster response and recovery.

As we await the Council's recommendations, FEMA is charged with regaining focus on its core mission and is taking steps to ensure this occurs. For the 2025 hurricane season, all operational and readiness requirements are managed in close coordination with local and state officials. FEMA continues to deliver numerous readiness training events during the 2025 hurricane season to emergency managers nationwide, including virtual offerings when in-person training is not possible. Additionally, state, local, tribal, and territorial jurisdictions may use existing grant funding to pay for training activities for first responders. This Administration supports emergency managers and is focused on a sustainable approach to emergency management, which is best when led by local and state authorities.

5. The NSGP is a vital source of funding for places at risk of attack, like synagogues and churches. When I asked you about supporting increases to the Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP) previously, you failed to tell me that you supported the program. Instead, you said, "if confirmed, I commit to ensuring the safety of all Americans..." In response to a question from Senator Kim during the hearing about increasing funding for the NPSG, you said, "We definitely have seen the value in that program and are willing to discuss this with you. What I would say is that we have to do an evaluation to make sure those dollars are going to the appropriate entities that they were intended . . ."
 - a. Troublingly, under your leadership, funding for NSGP was frozen earlier this year. Please describe the specific steps you've taken to ensure this funding is not frozen again.

Response: Pursuant to the court orders dated March 6, 2025, April 4, 2025, and April 14, 2025, in the matter of State of New York et al., Case No. 25-cv-39 (D.R.I.), FEMA stopped the manual review process for all grants that were not subject to manual review before the issuance of the Grant Processing Guidance on February 14, 2025. As a result, FEMA resumed processing grants in the manner it was processing grants before February 14, 2025. The March 6, 2025, Preliminary Injunction and the Court's April 4, 2025, Order precludes FEMA from making any funding decision based upon its statutory or regulatory authority or the terms and conditions of the respective grant. This includes, but is not limited to, the authority under 2 C.F.R. Part 200 to withhold improve payments and disallow costs (2 C.F.R. § 200.305 and Subpart E), impose specific conditions (2 C.F.R. § 200.208) and take remedies for noncompliance (2 C.F.R. §§ 200.339-340).

- b. In Fiscal Year 2024, the NSGP was vastly oversubscribed: 7,584 applicants requested \$978 million in funding, well above the \$274.5 allocated to the NSGP. How many NSGP applicants received grants in 2024?
- Response:** In Fiscal Year 2024, FEMA received 7,584 Nonprofit Security Grant Program subapplications. Of these, 43 percent (a total of 3,288 subapplications) were approved for funding.

 - c. How many applicants requested funding in Fiscal Year 2025 and what is the total dollar amount of those requests?

Response: The Fiscal Year 2025 Nonprofit Security Grant Program Notice of Funding Opportunity has not been released. Therefore, no requests for Fiscal Year 2025 have been submitted to FEMA.

- d. You failed to commit to Sen. Kim that you support increasing funding for the NSGP. Are there plans to expand the program to meet the demonstrated need?
 - i. *If not*, please describe how you are “ensuring the safety of all Americans,” including those who are injured or killed because the security services they requested for protection were not delivered.

Response: The President’s Budget will be released soon with the requested funding levels for the Nonprofit Security Grant Program.

- e. In your answers to Sen. Kim, you left open the possibility that the NSGP may be cut, which would come at significant risk to community institutions already endangered by rising threats to their security and increased financial burdens to address threats. Do you commit to not cutting NSGP funding?

Response: The President’s Budget will be released soon with the requested funding levels for the Nonprofit Security Grant Program.

- f. What are you doing to ensure the NSGP continues to be administered in the most effective manner possible?

Response: The Nonprofit Security Grant Program is administered through a rigorous, competitive, and detailed review process that includes multiple layers of evaluation. Applications undergo comprehensive review across three levels: state-level reviews assess eligibility and include scoring and prioritization by State Administrative Agencies; federal reviews ensure a comprehensive review of thousands of pages of application materials to verify completeness, eligibility, and compliance with program requirements; and final funding determinations are made by the Secretary to ensure that only projects demonstrating effectiveness, allowability, and alignment with program priorities receive funding.

- 6. According to your written testimony, “The Transportation Security Administration is directly responsible for ensuring Americans can travel within the U.S. safely and securely.” TSA ensures the safety of the skies through its screening role at airports, as most Americans are familiar with, but it also ensures maritime security, highway safety, transit and passenger rail safety, and more. President Trump’s Fiscal Year 2026 budget outline includes a \$247 million cut for TSA screening, including a reduction in transportation security officers.
 - a. Please detail which budget line items specifically this cut would be applied to.

Response: Based upon Fiscal Year 2024 Enacted levels, the Fiscal Year 2026 President's Budget includes a reduction of \$247M (equal to 2,462 full-time equivalents) to optimize resources through elimination of exit lane staffing. Such staffing does not serve a screening function but instead falls under the airport operator's responsibility for access control. This proposal supports moderate passenger volume growth while ensuring critical security functions are preserved.

b. Please describe in detail:

- i. The number of transportation security officer (TSO) positions expected to be eliminated;

Response: 1,173 Point of Service and Full-Time Equivalents and \$98.5M for Exit Lanes and 1,289 Point of Service and Full-Time Equivalents and \$148.2M for Efficiency Reductions.

- ii. The sites that would experience a reduction in TSOs;

Response: This will impact 175 airports, 91 for Efficiency & Exits, 78 for Efficiency Only and 6 for exits only, for a total of 2,462 full-time equivalents or an approximately 5 percent reduction in full-time equivalents from current allocations at affected airports.

- iii. The number of TSO positions expected to be reduced at each site in (ii);

Response: Please see Attachment C.

- iv. How DHS plans to ensure safety at each site with reduced TSO staff; and

Response: The FY 2026 Budget is reflective of the Transportation Security Administration's (TSA) efforts to optimize current staffing levels and reallocate resources. This reduction will impact unfilled positions and future recruiting efforts, while maintaining TSA's mission to protect the nation's transportation systems and reducing costs. This strategic approach ensures that critical security functions are preserved, even as we achieve significant budgetary savings.

- v. All planning and coordination you provided the White House in advance of the FY 2026 budget announcement.

Response: The Department actively engaged with the Office of Management and Budget on the creation of the Fiscal Year 2026 President's Budget for all Components.

7. On April 9, 2025, I joined a bipartisan letter from the entire New England Senate delegation to President Trump, asking the president to confirm the veracity of reports that FEMA was going to close the Region 1 office in Boston. The letter further urged that, if the reports were true, the administration should reject the misguided proposal. Unfortunately, your response to our letter, dated May 15, 2025, was woefully inadequate. In the letter, you cite the FEMA Review Council that will make recommendations to the president, but you fail to address the status of the Region 1 Office.

- a. Does the administration have any plans to close FEMA's Region 1 office?
 - i. *If not*, does the administration have any plans to significantly reduce in scope the FEMA Region 1 office?
- b. Does the administration have any plans to close or significantly reduce any other statutorily constituted FEMA regional offices? Please provide the specific details – including office location, proposed changes, proposed scope of reduction (if applicable), and date of public and congressional notification – of any plan to close or reduce a FEMA regional office.

Response: There are no plans at this time to close any of FEMA's regional offices.

8. In March, under your leadership, DHS upended a decade-old agreement and unilaterally rescinded collective bargaining rights for transportation security officers. As part of this recission, DHS eliminated the grievance procedures for TSOs and terminated all pending grievances. This has left TSOs vulnerable to arbitrary management decisions, creating unnecessary anxiety and stress for TSOs and ultimately leading to higher turnover rates within the workforce.
 - a. Please detail how your department came to the decision to eliminate grievance procedures and all pending grievances for TSOs.

Response: The recission of TSA's collective bargaining agreement did not eliminate grievance procedures for the Transportation Security Officers. The recission only negated those grievances that challenged the provision of the collective bargaining agreement and/or the 2022 Determination. Transportation Security Officers, like any other TSA employee, have the right to file grievances related to disciplinary actions, workplace issues, and other matters that fall within the scope of existing TSA policies. It is important to note that the TSA collective bargaining agreement is outside the scope of Title 5, as the TSA Administrator has the authority to establish the working conditions of Transportation Security Officers.

- b. How many grievance proceedings were terminated by your March 7 announcement? Please provide the status of each grievance at termination.

Response: TSA terminated 199 open grievances. Each grievant was given the opportunity to refile within 15 days under the administrative grievance process set forth in TSA HCM 771-4. Thirty-three grievances were ultimately refiled under HCM 771-4. In addition to open grievances, 36 cases invoked by AFGE for arbitration were terminated.

- c. Do you believe that TSOs, whom DHS has described as being vital to national security, deserved to have their grievance procedures and all pending grievances terminated? Explain why or why not.

Response: The recission of TSA's collective bargaining agreement did not eliminate grievance procedures for Transportation Security Officers. The recission only negated those grievances

that challenged the provision of the collective bargaining agreement and/or the 2022 Determination. Transportation Security Officers, like any other TSA employee, have the right to file grievances related to disciplinary actions, workplace issues, and other matters that fall within the scope of existing TSA policies. It is important to note that the TSA collective bargaining agreement is outside the scope of Title 5, as the TSA Administrator has the authority to establish the working conditions of Transportation Security Officers.

- d. I am proud to support the Rights for the TSA Workforce Act, which would ensure that all TSA employees are afforded the same rights, protections, and pay system as most other federal workers. Do you support this legislation?
 - i. *If not*, please explain why not.

Response: The Administration has not taken a position on this legislation.

- 9. Transportation Security Officers are required to wear a TSA-approved uniform while on duty. TSOs were recently notified by TSA that they would be given \$282.22 for their uniform allowance for 2025, a dramatic reduction from the nearly \$900 annual uniform allowance TSOs received under their now-rescinded CBA. As a result, many TSOs will now be compelled to pay out-of-pocket due to the inadequacy of the new uniform allowance.

- a. Please detail how your department came to the decision to drastically cut the TSO uniform allowance.

Response: As part of the Administration's efforts to improve services while reducing costs, TSA is reviewing alternatives for uniform provisions that may identify additional program efficiencies. Since we are exploring alternatives, the current contract may not run for a full performance year. Therefore, TSA prorated the uniform allowance to provide nearly 50 percent of the planned funds to allow our uniformed workforce to purchase items based on their individual needs.

- b. Did you end the collective bargaining agreement so you could point to these reductions as 'cost-savings' to the department?

Response: No.

- c. Do you believe it is fair for transportation security officers to be forced to pay hundreds of dollars out of their own pocket for department-required uniforms?

- i. *If so*, please explain how so.

Response: No.

- d. Please provide a detailed justification, including all analyses used, to show how TSA came to the determination that \$282.22 was appropriate for the uniform allowance this year.

Response: As the contract may not run for a full performance year, TSA prorated the uniform allowance to provide nearly 50 percent of the planned funds that will allow our uniformed workforce to purchase items based on their individual needs.

Attachment A to Blumenthal Question 1

1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20229



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

Commissioner

January 28, 2022

MEMORANDUM FOR: See Distribution

FROM: Chris Magnus 
Commissioner

SUBJECT: Processing of Pregnant and Postpartum Noncitizens and Infants

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is currently assisting in the implementation of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's *Public Health Reassessment and Order Suspending the Right to Introduce Certain Persons From Countries Where a Quarantinable Communicable Disease Exists* (August 2, 2021) ("Order"). Pursuant to this Order, covered noncitizens – to include family units and single adults presenting at a port of entry (POE) without proper documents or who seek to unlawfully enter the United States between POEs – are subject to expulsion pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §§ 265, 268 ("Title 42"). The Order also includes an exception for those "whom customs officers determine, with approval from a supervisor, should be excepted from this Order based on the totality of the circumstances, including consideration of . . . humanitarian and public health interests."

On August 18, 2021, Acting Commissioner Troy Miller issued a policy memorandum concluding that the treatment of noncitizens who give birth in CBP custody raises significant humanitarian and public health interests, and that these interests warrant serious consideration as part of an agent's/officer's assessment of whether an exception to the Order, based on the totality of the circumstances, is warranted.

In consultation with CBP's Chief Medical Officer, I have determined that similar considerations are present for the following groups of noncitizens: pregnant individuals in their third trimester, all postpartum individuals (individuals who have given birth in the last six months, whether in CBP custody or at another location), and infants (individuals under one year of age). For all three groups of noncitizens covered by this policy, expulsion may place them at increased risk of medical complications or death. Pregnant individuals in their third trimester may face multiple health risks, including risk of pre-term labor, hypertensive disorders, bleeding events, and infections. Many of these same risks are present for postpartum individuals. In addition, infants have a high risk for infections, and are also of an age where congenital diseases present a significant risk of medical complications or death.

Based on consultation with CDC, exceptions from the Order are justified for public health and humanitarian reasons for noncitizen pregnant women in their third trimester, all postpartum individuals, and infants under one year old as well as any of their immediate family members (parent, child, spouse, and, with respect to any child, their sibling) with whom they are traveling, as assessed on a case-by-case basis. If an agent/officer, assessing the totality of the circumstances, concludes that these individuals or any members of their immediate family nonetheless should be expelled under the Order, the agent/officer must first seek approval from a second line supervisor.

Processing of Pregnant and Postpartum Noncitizens and Infants
Page 2

CBP is committed to treating those in its custody with dignity and respect. This guidance reiterates that commitment.

Distribution: Deputy Commissioner
Chief Operating Officer
All Executive Assistant Commissioners
Chief, U.S. Border Patrol
All Assistant Commissioners
Chief Counsel
Executive Director, Privacy and Diversity Office
Executive Director, Policy Directorate
Executive Director, Planning, Analysis and Requirements Evaluations
Executive Director, Laboratories and Scientific Services
Executive Director, Intergovernmental Public Liaison
Executive Director, Law Enforcement Safety and Compliance
Director, CBP Watch
Chief of Staff
Deputy Chief of Staff
Director, Office of the Executive Secretariat

| Reason for Separation | Number of Separated Employees |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| DEATH | |
| REMOVAL | 1 |
| RESIGNATION | 1 |
| RETIREMENT/ DISABILITY | 3 |
| RETIREMENT/ SPECIAL OPTION | 1 |
| RETIREMENT/ VOLUNTARY | 1 |
| RETIREMENT- ILIA | 6 |
| TERM DURING PROB/ TRIAL PERIOD | 13 |
| TERMINATION | 2 |
| TERMINATION APPT IN | 1 |
| TERMINATION EXP OF APPT | 1 |
| Grand Total | 1 |
| Duty Separation | |
| ABINGDON, VA | 1 |
| AFTON, VA | 1 |
| AGANA, GU | 1 |
| AGUADILLA, PR | 3 |
| AGUAS BUENAS, PR | 1 |
| AKRON, OH | 1 |
| ALEXANDRIA, VA | 6 |
| ALPHARETTA, GA | 13 |
| AMHERST, NY | 2 |
| ANAHEIM, CA | 1 |
| ANCHORAGE, AK | 1 |
| ANKENY, IA | 1 |
| ANNISTON, AL | 8 |
| ANSON, TX | 1 |
| ARLINGTON, TX | 1 |
| ARLINGTON, VA | 3 |
| ARROYO, PR | 1 |
| ARVADA, CO | 1 |
| ASHBURN, VA | 2 |
| ASHEVILLE, NC | 4 |
| ATLANTA, GA | 20 |
| AUBREY, TX | 2 |
| AUBURN, AL | 1 |
| AUGUSTA, GA | 5 |
| AUSTELL, GA | 1 |
| AUSTIN, TX | 9 |
| AVON LAKE, OH | 1 |
| BABYLON, NY | 1 |
| BALTIMORE, MD | 3 |
| BANDERA, TX | 1 |
| BASTROP, TX | 1 |

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|------------------|----|
| BATON ROUGE, LA | 19 |
| BAYAMON, PR | 1 |
| BAYONNE, NJ | 1 |
| BAYTOWN, TX | 1 |
| BAYVILLE, NJ | 1 |
| BEAUMONT, TX | 1 |
| BEL AIR, MD | 1 |
| BELLINGHAM, WA | 1 |
| BELTSVILLE, MD | 1 |
| BETHANY, OK | 1 |
| BILOXI, MS | 6 |
| BIRMINGHAM, AL | 2 |
| BISMARCK, ND | 1 |
| BLOOMINGTON, MN | 6 |
| BLUFFTON, SC | 1 |
| BOGALUSA, LA | 1 |
| BOISE, ID | 1 |
| BOONES MILL, VA | 1 |
| BOSTON, MA | 1 |
| BOTHELL, WA | 15 |
| BOUNTIFUL, UT | 1 |
| BOW, NH | 1 |
| BOWIE, MD | 3 |
| BRADENTON, FL | 2 |
| BRENTWOOD, TN | 1 |
| BRONXVILLE, NY | 1 |
| BUCKEYE, AZ | 1 |
| BURGAW, NC | 1 |
| BURLINGTON, VT | 1 |
| BURNS, TN | 1 |
| CAGUAS, PR | 1 |
| CALUMET PARK, IL | 1 |
| CAMBRIDGE, MA | 7 |
| CAMBRIDGE, MD | 1 |

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|----------------------|----|
| CANOVAS, PR | 2 |
| CAPE CORAL, FL | 3 |
| CAPITOL HEIGHTS, MD | 1 |
| CARMEL, CA | 1 |
| CARMEL, IN | 1 |
| CAROLINA, PR | 9 |
| CARRIERE, MS | 1 |
| CARSON CITY, NV | 1 |
| CASSELBERRY, FL | 1 |
| CATANO, PR | 1 |
| CATAULA, GA | 1 |
| CATONSVILLE, MD | 1 |
| CAYEY, PR | 1 |
| CELINA, TX | 1 |
| CENTENNIAL, CO | 1 |
| CENTRAL CITY, CO | 1 |
| CENTRAL CITY, KY | 1 |
| CHANDLER, AZ | 1 |
| CHARLES TOWN, WV | 2 |
| CHARLESTON, SC | 2 |
| CHARLESTON, WV | 3 |
| CHARLOTTE, MI | 1 |
| CHARLOTTE, NC | 3 |
| CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA | 1 |
| CHATTANOOGA, TN | 1 |
| CHESTERFIELD, VA | 1 |
| CHICAGO, IL | 17 |
| CHICO, CA | 2 |
| CHOCOWINITY, NC | 1 |
| CHRISTIANSTED, VI | 1 |
| CHRISTMAS VALLEY, OR | 1 |
| CLAYTON, NC | 1 |
| CLIO, MI | 1 |
| COLLEGE PARK, GA | 1 |

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|----------------------|---|
| COLLINGSWOOD, NJ | 1 |
| COLORADO SPRINGS, CO | 2 |
| COLTON, CA | 1 |
| COLTS NECK, NJ | 2 |
| COLUMBIA, SC | 4 |
| COLUMBUS, GA | 1 |
| COLUMBUS, OH | 1 |
| COMMERCE CITY, CO | 1 |
| CONCONALLY, WA | 1 |
| CONCORD, NH | 1 |
| CONROE, TX | 2 |
| CONYERS, GA | 1 |
| CORDESVILLE, SC | 1 |
| CORINTH, KY | 1 |
| CORPUS CHRISTI, TX | 1 |
| CORRALES, NM | 1 |
| CORVALLIS, OR | 1 |
| COTO LAUREL, PR | 1 |
| COVINGTON, GA | 1 |
| CRESTVIEW, FL | 1 |
| CUMMING, GA | 2 |
| CYPRESS, TX | 2 |
| DALLAS, TX | 3 |
| DALzell, SC | 1 |
| DARROW, LA | 1 |
| DAVENPORT, FL | 2 |
| DAYTONA BEACH, FL | 1 |
| DE KALB, IL | 1 |
| DE SOTO, TX | 2 |
| DEARBORN, MI | 1 |
| DECATUR, GA | 2 |
| DEDEDO, GU | 1 |
| DELAND, FL | 1 |
| DELTONA, FL | 1 |

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|--------------------|-----|
| DENHAM SPRINGS, LA | 1 |
| DENTON, TX | 188 |
| DETROIT, MI | 2 |
| DIBERVILLE, MS | 1 |
| DOUGLAS, GA | 1 |
| DOUGLASVILLE, GA | 3 |
| DOWNERS GROVE, IL | 1 |
| DULUTH, GA | 1 |
| DUNCANVILLE, TX | 1 |
| DURANT, OK | 1 |
| DURHAM, NC | 1 |
| EAGLE, CO | 1 |
| EAST BERNE, NY | 1 |
| EAST WINDSOR, NJ | 2 |
| EASTON, MD | 1 |
| EASTSOUND, WA | 1 |
| ECLECTIC, AL | 1 |
| EL PASO, TX | 1 |
| ELLENSBURG, WA | 1 |
| EMERALD ISLE, NC | 1 |
| EMIGRANT, MT | 1 |
| EMMITSBURG, MD | 6 |
| ENGLEWOOD, OH | 1 |
| ERIE, PA | 1 |
| EULESS, TX | 1 |
| EWING TOWNSHIP, NJ | 1 |
| FAIRBANKS, AK | 1 |
| FAIRBURN, GA | 1 |
| FAIRHOPE, AL | 1 |
| FAYETTEVILLE, GA | 2 |
| FLORENCE, SC | 1 |
| FOLSOM, CA | 1 |
| FOREST HILL, TX | 1 |
| FORNEY, TX | 3 |

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|--------------------|----|
| FORT MILL, SC | 1 |
| FORT NOVOSEL, AL | 1 |
| FORT WORTH, TX | 10 |
| FRANKLIN, OH | 1 |
| FREDERICK, MD | 1 |
| FREDERICKSBURG, VA | 4 |
| FREDERIKSTED, VI | 1 |
| FREEPORT, FL | 1 |
| FRUITA, CO | 1 |
| FT MYERS, FL | 1 |
| FULTON, MO | 1 |
| GAINESVILLE, FL | 1 |
| GAITHERSBURG, MD | 1 |
| GIDDINGS, TX | 1 |
| GLENN MILLS, PA | 1 |
| GOLDSBORO, NC | 1 |
| GONZALES, LA | 1 |
| GOODYEAR, AZ | 1 |
| GOOSE CREEK, SC | 1 |
| GOTHENBURG, NE | 1 |
| GRAND PRAIRIE, TX | 1 |
| GRAY, ME | 1 |
| GREENBELT, MD | 1 |
| GREENSBORO, NC | 2 |
| GREGORY, TX | 1 |
| GREYBULL, WY | 1 |
| GUAYAMA, PR | 1 |
| GUAYNABO, PR | 35 |
| GULF BREEZE, FL | 1 |
| GULFPORT, MS | 1 |
| GURABO, PR | 1 |
| HAMPDEN, ME | 1 |
| HAMPTON, VA | 1 |
| HANOVER, MD | 2 |

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|----------------------|-----|
| HARLOWTON, MT | 1 |
| HARRISBURG, PA | 1 |
| HARTSVILLE, SC | 1 |
| HARVEY, LA | 3 |
| HARWICH PORT, MA | 1 |
| HASTINGS, MN | 1 |
| HATTIESBURG, MS | 3 |
| HAUGHTON, LA | 1 |
| HAWTHORNE, CA | 1 |
| HEBRON, OH | 1 |
| HELENA, MT | 1 |
| HENDERSON, NC | 1 |
| HENDERSON, NV | 2 |
| HEPHZIBAH, GA | 1 |
| HERMITAGE, PA | 1 |
| HICKORY, NC | 4 |
| HIGHLAND PARK, IL | 1 |
| HIGHLAND SPGS, VA | 1 |
| HINESVILLE, GA | 2 |
| HIRAM, GA | 1 |
| HOLLYWOOD, FL | 3 |
| HOMESTEAD, FL | 2 |
| HOMEWOOD, IL | 1 |
| HONOLULU, HI | 3 |
| HOOVER, AL | 1 |
| HOPE MILLS, NC | 1 |
| HOUSTON, TX | 38 |
| HUDSON, MA | 1 |
| HUNTERSVILLE, NC | 1 |
| HUNTINGTON BEACH, CA | 2 |
| HYATTSVILLE, MD | 179 |
| INCLINE VILLAGE, NV | 1 |
| INDEPENDENCE, OH | 1 |
| INDIAN HILLS, CO | 1 |

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|--------------------------|----|
| INMAN, SC | 1 |
| IRVING, TX | 1 |
| ISABELA, PR | 1 |
| JACKSON, MS | 1 |
| JACKSON, NJ | 1 |
| JACKSONVILLE, FL | 6 |
| JEFFERSON CITY, MO | 1 |
| JEFFERSON CITY, TN | 1 |
| JEFFERSON, MD | 1 |
| JERSEY CITY, NJ | 1 |
| JESSUP, MD | 1 |
| JOINT BASE MCGUIRE-D, NJ | 1 |
| JUANA DIAZ, PR | 2 |
| JUSTIN, TX | 2 |
| KANSAS CITY, MO | 22 |
| KATY, TX | 3 |
| KELLER, TX | 1 |
| KEYPORT, NJ | 1 |
| KIHEI, HI | 3 |
| KILN, MS | 1 |
| KING OF PRUSSIA, PA | 1 |
| KINGSVILLE, TX | 1 |
| KIRBYVILLE, TX | 1 |
| KIRKLAND, WA | 1 |
| KISSIMMEE, FL | 3 |
| KNOX, IN | 1 |
| KNOXVILLE, TN | 4 |
| LA VERGNE, TN | 1 |
| LADERA RANCH, CA | 1 |
| LAFAYETTE, CO | 1 |
| LAGUNA WOODS, CA | 1 |
| LAHAINA, HI | 1 |
| LAKE CHARLES, LA | 1 |
| LAKE MARY, FL | 3 |

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|--------------------------|----|
| LAKE WORTH, FL | 1 |
| LAKELAND, FL | 1 |
| LAKEWOOD, CO | 13 |
| LANCASTER, NY | 1 |
| LAND O LAKES, FL | 1 |
| LANGLEY, WA | 1 |
| LANTANA, FL | 1 |
| LARGO, MD | 1 |
| LAS VEGAS, NM | 2 |
| LATHROP, CA | 1 |
| LAUDERDALE LAKES, FL | 1 |
| LAUDERDALE-BY-THE-SE, FL | 1 |
| LAWRENCEVILLE, GA | 3 |
| LEES SUMMIT, MO | 1 |
| LEESBURG, FL | 1 |
| LEESBURG, VA | 1 |
| LEHIGH ACRES, FL | 1 |
| LELAND, IL | 1 |
| LITHONIA, GA | 2 |
| LITTLE ELM, TX | 1 |
| LITTLETON, NH | 1 |
| LIVINGSTON, TX | 1 |
| LONGVIEW, TX | 1 |
| LONGWOOD, FL | 1 |
| LORAIN, OH | 1 |
| LOS ANGELES, CA | 4 |
| LOUISVILLE, KY | 1 |
| LUMBERTON, NC | 1 |
| LUTHERVILLE TIMONIUM, MD | 1 |
| LYNCHBURG, VA | 1 |
| MABLETON, GA | 1 |
| MADISON, MS | 1 |
| MAGEE, MS | 1 |
| MAHWAH, NJ | 1 |

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|--------------------|----|
| MANCHESTER, MO | 1 |
| MANGILAO, GU | 2 |
| MANKATO, MN | 3 |
| MAPLE FALLS, WA | 1 |
| MARANA, AZ | 1 |
| MARIETTA, GA | 3 |
| MARSHALL, NC | 1 |
| MARTINSVILLE, VA | 1 |
| MASHPEE, MA | 1 |
| MATTESON, IL | 1 |
| MATTHEWS, NC | 1 |
| MAYAGUEZ, PR | 1 |
| MAYNARD, MA | 3 |
| MAYS LANDING, NJ | 1 |
| MAYWOOD, CA | 2 |
| MCDONOUGH, GA | 2 |
| MCKINNEY, TX | 1 |
| MELBOURNE, FL | 10 |
| MERIDEN, CT | 1 |
| MERRITT ISLAND, FL | 1 |
| METAIRIE, LA | 1 |
| MIAMI, FL | 3 |
| MIDDLEBORO, MA | 1 |
| MIDLAND, MI | 1 |
| MIDWAY, GA | 2 |
| MIMS, FL | 1 |
| MIRAMAR, FL | 1 |
| MISSION, TX | 1 |
| MISSOURI CITY, TX | 1 |
| MOBILE, AL | 4 |
| MOCA, PR | 2 |
| MONG MONG, GU | 1 |
| MONROE, VA | 1 |
| MONTCLAIR, NJ | 2 |

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| MONTGOMERY VILLAGE, MD | 1 |
| MONTGOMERY, AL | 1 |
| MORA, NM | 3 |
| MORAVIA, NY | 1 |
| MOSS POINT, MS | 1 |
| MURPHY, TX | 1 |
| MYRTLE BEACH, SC | 2 |
| NAPLES, FL | 1 |
| NASHUA, NH | 1 |
| NASHVILLE, TN | 10 |
| NEW BRAUNFELS, TX | 1 |
| NEW ORLEANS, LA | 7 |
| NEW SMYRNA BEACH, FL | 1 |
| NEW YORK - BRONX, NY | 4 |
| NEW YORK - KINGS, NY | 4 |
| NEW YORK - QUEENS, NY | 4 |
| NEW YORK, NY | 17 |
| NEWMAN, GA | 1 |
| NOCAVEE, FL | 1 |
| NORCROSS, GA | 1 |
| NORTH CHARLESTON, SC | 2 |
| NORTH FORT MYERS, FL | 1 |
| NORTH LITTLE ROCK, AR | 2 |
| NORTH PROVIDENCE, RI | 1 |
| NORTH SUTTON, NH | 1 |
| OAK PARK, IL | 1 |
| OAKLAND, CA | 15 |
| OCEANPORT, NJ | 1 |
| OIL CITY, LA | 1 |
| OKLAHOMA CITY, OK | 2 |
| OLANTA, SC | 1 |
| OLATHE, KS | 1 |
| OLCOTT, NY | 1 |
| OLD BRIDGE, NJ | 1 |

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|---------------------|----|
| OLYMPIA FIELDS, IL | 1 |
| OPELIKA, AL | 1 |
| ORANGE CITY, FL | 1 |
| ORLANDO, FL | 15 |
| ORMOND BEACH, FL | 1 |
| OROCOVIS, PR | 1 |
| PACIFICA, CA | 2 |
| PALMETTO BAY, FL | 1 |
| PARK CITY, UT | 1 |
| PASADENA, CA | 2 |
| PASCAGOULA, MS | 1 |
| PAWLEYS ISLAND, SC | 1 |
| PEABODY, MA | 1 |
| PEORIA, AZ | 1 |
| PERRY, MI | 1 |
| PHILADELPHIA, PA | 27 |
| PHOENIX, AZ | 1 |
| PIKESVILLE, MD | 1 |
| PILOT POINT, TX | 1 |
| PISCATAWAY, NJ | 1 |
| POMPANO BEACH, FL | 1 |
| PONCE, PR | 9 |
| PONDER, TX | 1 |
| PORT ALLEN, LA | 1 |
| PORT ARTHUR, TX | 3 |
| PORT CHARLOTTE, FL | 2 |
| PORT ORANGE, FL | 1 |
| PORTAGE, WI | 1 |
| PORTLAND, ME | 1 |
| PORTLAND, OR | 1 |
| POUGHKEEPSIE, NY | 1 |
| POULSBO, WA | 1 |
| PRAIRIE VILLAGE, KS | 2 |
| PRAIRIEVILLE, LA | 1 |

| | |
|--------------------------|----|
| PREScott, AZ | 1 |
| PRESTON, ID | 1 |
| PRINCE GEORGE, VA | 2 |
| RALEIGH, NC | 1 |
| RAMONA, CA | 1 |
| RANCHO CORDOVA, CA | 1 |
| RANCHO MISSION VIEJO, CA | 1 |
| RAYTOWN, MO | 1 |
| REDONDO BEACH, CA | 1 |
| REHOBOTH, DE | 1 |
| REISTERSTOWN, MD | 1 |
| RICEBORO, GA | 1 |
| RICHLAND, WA | 1 |
| RICHMOND HTS, MO | 1 |
| RICHMOND, VA | 1 |
| RIDGELAND, MS | 1 |
| RIO GRANDE, PR | 1 |
| RIVERDALE, GA | 1 |
| RIVERSIDE, IL | 1 |
| ROANOKE, TX | 1 |
| ROANOKE, VA | 2 |
| ROCHESTER, MN | 1 |
| ROCKLIN, CA | 1 |
| ROCKPORT, TX | 1 |
| ROCKVILLE, MD | 1 |
| ROCKWALL, TX | 1 |
| ROCKY HILL, CT | 3 |
| ROSENBERG, TX | 1 |
| ROSEVILLE, CA | 1 |
| ROUND HILL, VA | 12 |
| ROXBORO, NC | 1 |
| ROY, WA | 1 |
| RUSSELL SPRINGS, KY | 1 |
| RUSSELLVILLE, AL | 1 |

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| RUTLAND, VT | 1 |
| SABANA GRANDE, PR | 1 |
| SABANA SECA, PR | 1 |
| SACRAMENTO, CA | 8 |
| SAINT AUGUSTINE, FL | 2 |
| SAINT CLOUD, FL | 2 |
| SAINT HEDWIG, TX | 1 |
| SAINT JOSEPH, MO | 1 |
| SAINT PAUL, MN | 1 |
| SAINT PETERSBURG, FL | 1 |
| SAIPAN, CQ | 3 |
| SALADO, TX | 1 |
| SALEM, OR | 2 |
| SAN ANTONIO, TX | 1 |
| SAN DIEGO, CA | 3 |
| SAN FRANCISCO, CA | 1 |
| SAN JUAN, PR | 8 |
| SANTA CLARA, CA | 1 |
| SANTA FE, NM | 3 |
| SANTA MARIA, CA | 1 |
| SARASOTA, FL | 5 |
| SAULT STE MARIE, MI | 1 |
| SAVANNAH, GA | 5 |
| SCHERERVILLE, IN | 1 |
| SCOTTDALE, GA | 1 |
| SCRANTON, PA | 1 |
| SEATTLE, WA | 2 |
| SEELEY LAKE, MT | 1 |
| SEGUIN, TX | 1 |
| SELMA, AL | 1 |
| SHOW LOW, AZ | 1 |
| SILVER CITY, NM | 1 |
| SILVERTHORNE, CO | 1 |
| SKANEATELES, NY | 1 |

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| SLIDELL, LA | 1 |
| SMYRNA, DE | 1 |
| SNELLVILLE, GA | 1 |
| SNOHOMISH, WA | 1 |
| SOUTH BURLINGTON, VT | 1 |
| SOUTH LEBANON, OH | 1 |
| SOUTH PORTLAND, ME | 2 |
| SPANISH FORT, AL | 1 |
| SPOTSYLVANIA, VA | 1 |
| SPRING HILL, FL | 1 |
| SPRING, TX | 2 |
| SPRINGDALE, AR | 1 |
| SPRINGFIELD, IL | 1 |
| ST CROIX, VI | 3 |
| STAFFORD, VA | 1 |
| STEELTON, PA | 1 |
| STEPHENS CITY, VA | 1 |
| STOCKBRIDGE, GA | 1 |
| STONE MOUNTAIN, GA | 1 |
| STONINGTON, CT | 1 |
| STOUGHTON, MA | 1 |
| STUART, FL | 1 |
| SUMMERTON, SC | 1 |
| SUNNYVALE, TX | 1 |
| SWANSBORO, NC | 1 |
| SWedesboro, NJ | 1 |
| SYLVA, NC | 1 |
| SYLVANIA, OH | 1 |
| TALLAHASSEE, FL | 8 |
| TAMPA, FL | 2 |
| THE VILLAGES, FL | 1 |
| THE WOODLANDS, TX | 1 |
| THOMASVILLE, GA | 2 |
| TISHOMINGO, OK | 1 |

| | |
|---------------------|-----|
| TOWNSEND, GA | 1 |
| TRACY, CA | 1 |
| TRUJILLO ALTO, PR | 2 |
| TUCSON, AZ | 1 |
| UNION SPRINGS, AL | 1 |
| UNION, IL | 1 |
| UNIVERSAL CITY, TX | 1 |
| UPTON, MA | 1 |
| VALDOSTA, GA | 1 |
| VALLEY STREAM, NY | 1 |
| VALLEY VIEW, TX | 1 |
| VALPARAISO, FL | 1 |
| VANCOUVER, WA | 1 |
| VEGA BAJA, PR | 1 |
| VENICE, FL | 1 |
| VERO BEACH, FL | 1 |
| VIENNA, GA | 1 |
| VIENNA, VA | 1 |
| VIRGINIA BEACH, VA | 1 |
| WACO, TX | 1 |
| WAILUKU, HI | 2 |
| WAKEFIELD, MA | 1 |
| WALDWICK, NJ | 1 |
| WALKER, LA | 1 |
| WARSAW, VA | 1 |
| WASHINGTON, DC | 155 |
| WAUTOMA, WI | 1 |
| WEATHERFORD, TX | 1 |
| WELLINGTON, FL | 1 |
| WEST DES MOINES, IA | 4 |
| WEST MANSFIELD, OH | 1 |
| WEST PALM BEACH, FL | 1 |
| WESTMINSTER, CO | 1 |
| WEYMOUTH, MA | 1 |

| | |
|--------------------|-------------|
| WHEATON, MD | 1 |
| WHITE, GA | 1 |
| WICHITA, KS | 1 |
| WILLIAMSBURG, VA | 1 |
| WILLIAMSON, WV | 1 |
| WILLINGBORO, NJ | 1 |
| WILLIS, TX | 1 |
| WILLISTON, VT | 1 |
| WINCHESTER, VA | 127 |
| WINDERMERE, FL | 1 |
| WINTER HAVEN, FL | 1 |
| WOODBRIDGE, CT | 1 |
| WOODBRIDGE, VA | 1 |
| WORCESTER, MA | 1 |
| YAKIMA, WA | 3 |
| YAUCO, PR | 1 |
| YORK SPRINGS, PA | 1 |
| YORK, ME | 1 |
| YPSILANTI, MI | 1 |
| ZANESVILLE, OH | 1 |
| Grand Total | 1749 |

Separations from 01-20-2025 - Present (PP10)

| Occupational Series | Number of Separated Employees | Number of Separated Employees |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| ACCOUNTING TECHNICIAN | 22 | 7 |
| ADMV OFFICER | 7 | 1 |
| ARCHITECTURE | 561 | 1 |
| AUTOMOTIVE MECHANIC | 9 | 1 |
| BUDGET ANALYSIS | 5 | 3 |
| CIVIL ENGINEERING | 140 | 7 |
| CIVIL RIGHTS ANAL | 1 | 5 |
| COMMUNICATIONS RELAY OPERATION | 1 | 4 |
| COMMUNITY PLANNING | 930 | 3 |
| CONSTRUCTION ANALYST | 35 | 4 |
| CONTRACTING | 38 | 5 |
| COOKING | | 1 |
| DATA SCIENCE | 1749 | 3 |
| DHS CYBERSECURITY SERVICE SPECIALIST | | 2 |
| EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT | | 588 |
| ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION SPECIALIST | | 63 |
| EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY | | 1 |
| FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION & PROGRAM | | 13 |
| FINANCIAL ANALYSIS | | 1 |
| FINANCIAL CLERICAL & ASSISTANCE | | 1 |
| FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT | | 1 |
| GEN FACILITIES & EQUIP | | 8 |
| GEN INVESTIGATING | | 1 |
| GEN. INSPECT,INVEST,ENFCMNT & COMP. | | 3 |
| GENERAL ATTORNEY | | 9 |
| GENERAL BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY | | 3 |
| GENERAL ENGINEERING | | 6 |
| GENERAL SUPPLY | | 2 |
| GRANTS MANAGEMENT | | 17 |
| HEALTH PHYSICS | | 1 |
| INDL SPECIALIST | | 1 |

| | |
|--|-----|
| INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SPECIALIST | 45 |
| INSTRUCTIONAL SYSTEMS | 1 |
| INSURANCE EXAMINING | 2 |
| INTELLIGENCE | 1 |
| LOGISTICS MANAGEMENT | 14 |
| MAINTENANCE MECHANIC | 2 |
| MANAGEMENT & PROGRAM ANALYSIS | 92 |
| MATERIALS HANDLING | 2 |
| MISCELLANEOUS ADMINISTRATION & PROGRAM | 652 |
| MISCELLANEOUS CLERK & ASSISTANT | 5 |
| MOTOR VEHICLE OPERATING | 1 |
| OPERATIONS RESEARCH | 1 |
| PARALEGAL SPECIALIST | 2 |
| PERSONNEL CLERICAL AND ASSISTANCE | 3 |
| PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT | 13 |
| PHOTOGRAPHY | 1 |
| POLICE | 1 |
| PROCUREMENT CLERICAL & ASSISTANCE | 1 |
| PROGRAM MANAGEMENT | 14 |
| PSYCHOLOGY | 1 |
| PUBLIC AFFAIRS | 24 |
| SAFETY & OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH MGMT | 1 |
| SECRETARY | 1 |
| SECUR ADM | 13 |
| SOCIAL SCIENCE | 1 |
| STATISTICS | 3 |
| SUPPLY PROGRAM MGMT | 45 |
| SUPPORT SRVCS ADMINISTRATION | 1 |
| TELECOMMUNICATIONS | 15 |
| TRAINING INSTRUCTION | 20 |
| TRANSPR OPERATIONS | 2 |
| UTILITY SYSTEMS REPAIRING OPERATING | 1 |
| VISUAL INFORMATION | 1 |
| WRITING AND EDITING | 1 |

| Program Offices | Number of Separated Employees |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Mission Support | 93 |
| OFF OF CHF COMP PROCUR OFFICER | 8 |
| Off of Chf Information Officer | 40 |
| OFF OF CHIEF HC OFFICER | 23 |
| Off of Chief Security Officer | 14 |
| Office of Chief Admin Officer | 8 |
| NCP | 14 |
| Off of Chief Financial Officer | 30 |
| Off of Policy & Pgm Analysis | 8 |
| OFFICE OF CIVIL RIGHTS | 6 |
| Office of External Affairs | 30 |
| OFFICE OF PROF RESPONSIBILITY | 1 |
| Office of the Administrator | 15 |
| Office of the Chief Counsel | 15 |
| Regional Offices | 328 |
| Region One | 22 |
| Region Two | 24 |
| Region Three | 27 |
| Region Four | 80 |
| Region Five | 27 |
| Region Six | 70 |
| Region Seven | 26 |
| Region Eight | 13 |
| Region Nine | 23 |
| Region Ten | 16 |
| RESILIENCE | 142 |
| ENV PLAN & HIST PRESERVATION | 54 |
| FIMA | 40 |
| GRANT PROGRAMS DIR | 14 |
| NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS DIR | 27 |
| OFFICE OF BUSINESS MANAGEMENT | 2 |

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|
| OFFICE OF RESILIENCE STRATEGY | 2 |
| RES OFFICE OF THE DEPADMI | 2 |
| RISK ANAL,PLANN & INFO DIRECT | 1 |
| Response and Recovery | 1063 |
| US Fire Administration | 4 |
| Grand Total | 1749 |

Attachment C to Blumenthal Question 6

S1 QFRS Sen Blumenthal (May 20 HSGAC) QFR 2025-13855

| Airport | CAT | Airport Name | STATE | REDUCTION TYPE | TOTAL ESTIMATED REDUCTIONS | % CHANGE |
|---------|-----|--|---------------|-------------------|----------------------------|----------|
| ATL | X | Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International | Georgia | Efficiency & Exit | (2,462.00) | -4.9% |
| BOS | X | Boston Logan International | Massachusetts | Efficiency & Exit | (60.01) | -4.5% |
| BWI | X | Baltimore-Washington International | Maryland | Efficiency & Exit | (38.61) | -7.0% |
| CLT | X | Charlotte Douglas International | No. Carolina | Efficiency & Exit | (30.15) | -5.8% |
| DCA | X | Ronald Reagan Washington National | Virginia | Efficiency & Exit | (21.80) | -3.6% |
| DEN | X | Denver International | Colorado | Efficiency & Exit | (32.93) | -3.2% |
| DFW | X | Dallas/Fort Worth International | Texas | Efficiency & Exit | (57.27) | -4.0% |
| DTW | X | Detroit Metro Wayne County | Michigan | Efficiency & Exit | (43.20) | -6.0% |
| EWR | X | Newark Liberty International | New Jersey | Efficiency & Exit | (76.90) | -6.7% |
| FLL | X | Ft. Lauderdale-Hollywood International | Florida | Efficiency & Exit | (43.57) | -4.5% |
| HNL | X | Daniel K. Inouye International | Hawaii | Efficiency & Exit | (32.75) | -6.1% |
| IAH | X | Washington Dulles International | Virginia | Efficiency | (21.03) | -2.7% |
| IAH | X | George Bush Intercontinental | Texas | Efficiency & Exit | (51.40) | -5.2% |
| JFK | X | John F. Kennedy International | New York | Efficiency & Exit | (54.71) | -3.6% |
| LAS | X | Harry Reid International | Nevada | Efficiency & Exit | (56.17) | -4.9% |
| LAX | X | Los Angeles International | California | Efficiency & Exit | (96.03) | -5.1% |
| LGA | X | LaGuardia | New York | Efficiency & Exit | (25.26) | -3.5% |
| MCO | X | Orlando International | Florida | Efficiency & Exit | (60.46) | -4.9% |
| MIA | X | Miami International | Florida | Efficiency & Exit | (92.61) | -6.5% |
| MSP | X | Minneapolis-St. Paul International | Minnesota | Efficiency & Exit | (30.77) | -4.6% |
| ORD | X | Chicago-O'Hare International | Illinois | Efficiency & Exit | (106.91) | -7.0% |
| PHL | X | Philadelphia International | Pennsylvania | Efficiency & Exit | (47.76) | -5.5% |
| PHX | X | Phoenix Sky Harbor International | Arizona | Efficiency & Exit | (61.55) | -6.8% |
| SEA | X | Seattle-Tacoma International | Washington | Efficiency & Exit | (39.55) | -4.0% |
| ABQ | I | Albuquerque International Sunport | New Mexico | Efficiency | (5.24) | -2.7% |
| ALB | I | Albany International | New York | Efficiency & Exit | (10.26) | -6.1% |
| ANC | I | Ted Stevens Anchorage International | Alaska | Efficiency | (5.52) | -2.7% |
| AUS | I | Austin Bergstrom International | Texas | Efficiency | (13.99) | -2.7% |
| BDL | I | Bradley International | Connecticut | Efficiency & Exit | (12.44) | -5.0% |
| BHM | I | Birmingham-Shuttlesworth International | Alabama | Efficiency | (3.19) | -2.7% |
| BNA | I | Nashville International | Tennessee | Efficiency | (12.09) | -2.7% |
| BOI | I | Boise | Idaho | Efficiency & Exit | (10.31) | -6.7% |
| BUF | I | Buffalo Niagara International | New York | Efficiency | (4.70) | -2.7% |
| BUR | I | Hollywood Burbank | California | Efficiency | (4.76) | -2.7% |
| CHS | I | Charleston International | So. Carolina | Efficiency | (4.43) | -2.7% |
| CLE | I | Cleveland Hopkins International | Ohio | Efficiency & Exit | (18.46) | -6.6% |
| CMH | I | John Glenn Columbus International | Ohio | Efficiency & Exit | (24.32) | -9.2% |
| CVG | I | Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International | Kentucky | Efficiency | (7.37) | -2.7% |
| DAL | I | Dallas Love Field | Texas | Efficiency | (7.05) | -2.7% |
| DSM | I | Des Moines International | Iowa | Efficiency | (3.47) | -2.7% |
| ELP | I | El Paso International | Texas | Efficiency & Exit | (9.25) | -7.1% |
| GEG | I | Spokane International | Washington | Efficiency & Exit | (16.43) | -9.3% |
| GRR | I | Gerald R Ford International | Michigan | Efficiency | (4.27) | -2.7% |
| GUM | I | Antonio B. Won Pat International | Guam | Efficiency | (2.76) | -2.7% |
| HOU | I | William P. Hobby | Texas | Efficiency | (6.04) | -2.7% |
| IND | I | Indianapolis International | Indiana | Efficiency | (8.38) | -2.7% |
| JAX | I | Jacksonville International | Florida | Efficiency & Exit | (10.98) | -5.5% |
| KOA | I | Elison Onizuka Kona International at Keahole | Hawaii | Efficiency | (2.98) | -2.7% |
| LGB | I | Long Beach | California | Efficiency & Exit | (7.91) | -7.2% |
| LH | I | Lihue | Hawaii | Efficiency | (3.14) | -2.7% |
| MDW | I | Chicago Midway International | Illinois | Efficiency & Exit | (22.72) | -6.7% |
| MEM | I | Memphis International | Tennessee | Efficiency & Exit | (11.21) | -5.5% |
| MKE | I | Milwaukee Mitchell International | Wisconsin | Efficiency & Exit | (17.20) | -7.8% |
| MSY | I | Louis Armstrong New Orleans International | Louisiana | Efficiency & Exit | (20.20) | -6.5% |
| MYR | I | Myrtle Beach International | So. Carolina | Efficiency | (3.15) | -2.7% |
| OAK | I | San Francisco Bay Oakland International | California | Efficiency & Exit | (14.84) | -4.6% |
| OGG | I | Kahului | Hawaii | Efficiency | (4.13) | -2.7% |
| OKC | I | Will Rogers World | Oklahoma | Efficiency | (3.85) | -2.7% |
| OMA | I | Eppley Airfield | Nebraska | Efficiency & Exit | (19.16) | -8.5% |
| ONT | I | Ontario International | California | Efficiency & Exit | (19.20) | -7.7% |
| ORF | I | Norfolk International | Virginia | Efficiency & Exit | (16.85) | -8.8% |
| PBI | I | Palm Beach International | Florida | Efficiency & Exit | (17.93) | -6.5% |
| PDX | I | Portland International | Oregon | Efficiency | (12.17) | -2.7% |
| PIT | I | Pittsburgh International | Pennsylvania | Efficiency & Exit | (15.18) | -4.9% |
| PSP | I | Palm Springs International | California | Efficiency | (2.83) | -2.7% |
| PVD | I | Rhode Island T.F. Green International | Rhode Island | Efficiency | (4.13) | -2.7% |
| RDU | I | Raleigh-Durham International | No. Carolina | Efficiency & Exit | (17.87) | -4.1% |
| RIC | I | Richmond International | Virginia | Efficiency & Exit | (10.42) | -6.0% |

S1 QFRS Sen Blumenthal (May 20 HSGAC) QFR-2025-13855

| Airport | CAT | Airport Name | STATE | REDUCTION TYPE | TOTAL ESTIMATED REDUCTIONS | % CHANGE |
|---------|-----|--|--------------|-------------------|----------------------------|----------|
| RNO | I | Reno/Tahoe International | Nevada | Efficiency & Exit | (10.45) | -6.6% |
| RSW | I | Southwest Florida International | Florida | Efficiency | (8.80) | -2.7% |
| SAN | I | San Diego International | California | Efficiency & Exit | (34.52) | -5.3% |
| SAT | I | San Antonio International | Texas | Efficiency & Exit | (19.13) | -6.3% |
| SAV | I | Savannah/Hilton Head International | Georgia | Efficiency & Exit | (9.11) | -6.9% |
| SDF | I | Louisville International | Kentucky | Efficiency & Exit | (9.74) | -6.4% |
| SJC | I | San Jose Mineta International | California | Efficiency & Exit | (14.45) | -4.6% |
| SIU | I | Luis Munoz Marin International | Puerto Rico | Efficiency | (11.05) | -2.7% |
| SLC | I | Salt Lake City International | Utah | Efficiency | (10.79) | -2.7% |
| SMF | I | Sacramento International | California | Efficiency | (9.87) | -2.7% |
| SNA | I | John Wayne, Orange County | California | Efficiency & Exit | (24.17) | -7.8% |
| STL | I | St. Louis Lambert International | Missouri | Efficiency & Exit | (26.87) | -6.9% |
| SYR | I | Syracuse-Hancock International | New York | Efficiency | (3.86) | -2.7% |
| TPA | I | Tampa International | Florida | Efficiency & Exit | (41.29) | -6.0% |
| TUL | I | Tulsa International | Oklahoma | Efficiency & Exit | (9.11) | -7.5% |
| TUS | I | Tucson International | Arizona | Efficiency & Exit | (14.23) | -8.4% |
| ABE | II | Lehigh Valley International | Pennsylvania | Efficiency | (1.56) | -2.7% |
| AGS | II | Augusta Regional | Georgia | Efficiency | (1.23) | -2.7% |
| AMA | II | Rick Husband Amarillo International | Texas | Efficiency & Exit | (6.60) | -15.1% |
| ASE | II | Aspen Pitkin County Sardy Field | Colorado | Efficiency | (1.05) | -2.7% |
| ATW | II | Appleton International | Wisconsin | Efficiency | (1.56) | -2.7% |
| AVL | II | Asheville Regional | No. Carolina | Efficiency & Exit | (8.06) | -8.3% |
| AVP | II | Wilkes Barre/Scranton International | Pennsylvania | Efficiency | (1.18) | -2.7% |
| BGR | II | Bangor International | Maine | Efficiency & Exit | (6.29) | -12.4% |
| BIL | II | Billings Logan International | Montana | Efficiency & Exit | (7.19) | -12.4% |
| BIS | II | Bismarck Municipal | No. Dakota | Efficiency | (1.23) | -2.7% |
| BLI | II | Bellingham International | Washington | Efficiency | (1.32) | -2.7% |
| BQN | II | Rafael Hernandez | Puerto Rico | Efficiency | (1.52) | -2.7% |
| BTR | II | Baton Rouge Metropolitan | Louisiana | Efficiency | (1.29) | -2.7% |
| BTW | II | Burlington International | Vermont | Efficiency | (2.40) | -2.7% |
| BZN | II | Bozeman Yellowstone International | Montana | Efficiency | (2.70) | -2.7% |
| CAE | II | Columbia Metropolitan | So. Carolina | Efficiency | (1.63) | -2.7% |
| CAK | II | Akron-Canton Regional | Ohio | Efficiency & Exit | (6.70) | -11.5% |
| CHA | II | Chattanooga Metropolitan | Tennessee | Efficiency & Exit | (6.64) | -12.7% |
| CHO | II | Charlottesville/Albermarle | Virginia | Efficiency | (1.31) | -2.7% |
| CID | II | Eastern Iowa | Iowa | Efficiency | (1.80) | -2.7% |
| COS | II | City of Colorado Springs Municipal | Colorado | Efficiency & Exit | (7.48) | -8.3% |
| CRP | II | Corpus Christi International | Texas | Efficiency & Exit | (6.33) | -14.1% |
| DAB | II | Daytona Beach International | Florida | Efficiency & Exit | (5.72) | -11.9% |
| DAY | II | James M. Cox Dayton International | Ohio | Efficiency & Exit | (6.88) | -12.7% |
| ECP | II | Northwest Florida Beaches International | Florida | Efficiency | (1.83) | -2.7% |
| EUG | II | Eugene | Oregon | Efficiency | (2.00) | -2.7% |
| EYW | II | Key West International | Florida | Efficiency & Exit | (5.98) | -11.1% |
| FAI | II | Fairbanks International | Alaska | Efficiency & Exit | (8.42) | -13.4% |
| FAR | II | Hector International | No. Dakota | Efficiency & Exit | (6.88) | -12.7% |
| FAT | II | Fresno Yosemite International | California | Efficiency & Exit | (9.80) | -8.7% |
| FNT | II | Bishop International | Michigan | Efficiency | (1.38) | -2.7% |
| FWA | II | Fort Wayne International | Indiana | Efficiency & Exit | (6.87) | -12.8% |
| GNV | II | Gainesville Regional | Florida | Efficiency | (1.20) | -2.7% |
| GPT | II | Gulfport-Biloxi International | Mississippi | Efficiency & Exit | (6.11) | -11.8% |
| GRB | II | Green Bay Austin Straubel International | Wisconsin | Efficiency | (1.61) | -2.7% |
| GSN | II | Saitama International | Saitama | Efficiency | (1.25) | -2.7% |
| GSO | II | Piedmont Triad International | No. Carolina | Efficiency & Exit | (12.54) | -13.0% |
| GSP | II | Greenville-Spartanburg International | So. Carolina | Efficiency | (2.90) | -2.7% |
| HPN | II | Westchester County | New York | Efficiency | (2.17) | -2.7% |
| HRL | II | Valley International | Texas | Efficiency & Exit | (6.49) | -12.0% |
| HSV | II | Huntsville International | Alabama | Efficiency & Exit | (7.16) | -10.6% |
| HVN | II | Tweed - New Haven | Connecticut | Efficiency | (1.48) | -2.7% |
| ICT | II | Wichita Dwight D. Eisenhower National | Kansas | Efficiency & Exit | (7.89) | -9.9% |
| IDA | II | Idaho Falls Regional | Idaho | Efficiency | (1.25) | -2.7% |
| ILM | II | Wilmington International | No. Carolina | Efficiency | (1.66) | -2.7% |
| ISP | II | Long Island MacArthur | New York | Efficiency & Exit | (6.57) | -9.7% |
| ITO | II | Hilo International | Hawaii | Efficiency & Exit | (6.75) | -11.8% |
| IWA | II | Phoenix-Mesa Gateway | Arizona | Efficiency | (2.45) | -2.7% |
| JAC | II | Jackson Hole | Wyoming | Efficiency | (1.74) | -2.7% |
| JAN | II | Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International | Mississippi | Efficiency & Exit | (7.30) | -8.7% |
| JNU | II | Juneau International | Alaska | Efficiency | (1.43) | -2.7% |
| LBB | II | Lubbock Preston Smith International | Texas | Efficiency | (1.17) | -2.7% |
| LEX | II | Blue Grass | Kentucky | Efficiency | (1.94) | -2.7% |

S1 QFRS Sen Blumenthal (May 20 HSGAC) QFR-2025-13855

| Airport | CAT | Airport Name | STATE | REDUCTION TYPE | TOTAL ESTIMATED REDUCTIONS | % CHANGE |
|---------|-----|--|----------------|-------------------|----------------------------|----------|
| LIT | II | Bill and Hillary Clinton National | Arkansas | Efficiency | (2.47) | -2.7% |
| MAF | II | Midland International Air & Space Port | Texas | Efficiency | (1.68) | -2.7% |
| MDT | II | Harrisburg International | Pennsylvania | Efficiency & Exit | (7.31) | -10.5% |
| MFE | II | McAllen International | Texas | Efficiency & Exit | (6.85) | -10.2% |
| MFR | II | Rogue Valley International-Medford | Oregon | Efficiency | (1.71) | -2.7% |
| MHT | II | Manchester-Boston Regional | New Hampshire | Efficiency & Exit | (11.94) | -16.0% |
| MLB | II | Melbourne Orlando International | Florida | Efficiency & Exit | (6.36) | -10.5% |
| MLI | II | Quad Cities International | Illinois | Efficiency & Exit | (6.70) | -14.1% |
| MOB | II | Mobile Regional | Alabama | Efficiency | (1.20) | -2.7% |
| MSN | II | Dane County Regional | Wisconsin | Efficiency & Exit | (7.75) | -7.0% |
| MSO | II | Missoula Montana | Montana | Efficiency | (1.93) | -2.7% |
| PAE | II | Paine Field/Snohomish County | Washington | Efficiency | (1.36) | -2.7% |
| PIA | II | General Downing/Peoria International | Illinois | Efficiency | (1.20) | -2.7% |
| PIE | II | St Pete-Clearwater International | Florida | Efficiency & Exit | (8.18) | -7.5% |
| PNS | II | Pensacola International | Florida | Efficiency | (2.67) | -2.7% |
| PSC | II | Tri-Cities | Washington | Efficiency & Exit | (6.64) | -12.6% |
| PVM | II | Portland International Jetport | Maine | Efficiency & Exit | (8.13) | -9.2% |
| RAP | II | Rapid City Regional | So. Dakota | Efficiency | (1.18) | -2.7% |
| RDM | II | Roberts Field | Oregon | Efficiency | (1.63) | -2.7% |
| ROA | II | Roanoke-Blacksburg Regional | Virginia | Efficiency & Exit | (7.15) | -13.5% |
| SBA | II | Santa Barbara Municipal | California | Efficiency | (1.75) | -2.7% |
| SBN | II | South Bend International | Indiana | Efficiency | (1.42) | -2.7% |
| SBP | II | San Luis Obispo County Regional | California | Efficiency | (1.24) | -2.7% |
| SGF | II | Springfield/Branson National | Missouri | Efficiency & Exit | (7.51) | -11.4% |
| SHV | II | Shreveport Regional | Louisiana | Efficiency & Exit | (6.85) | -13.9% |
| STT | II | Cyril E. King International | Virgin Islands | Efficiency | (1.87) | -2.7% |
| TLH | II | Tallahassee International | Florida | Efficiency | (1.43) | -2.7% |
| TTN | II | Trenton Mercer | New Jersey | Efficiency | (0.95) | -2.7% |
| TVC | II | Cherry Capital | Michigan | Efficiency | (1.19) | -2.7% |
| TVS | II | McGhee Tyson | Tennessee | Efficiency | (3.05) | -2.7% |
| VPS | II | Destin-Fort Walton Beach | Florida | Efficiency | (2.45) | -2.7% |
| XNA | II | Northwest Arkansas National | Arkansas | Efficiency & Exit | (7.73) | -9.1% |
| BMI | III | Central Illinois Regional at Bloomington-Normal | Illinois | Exit | (4.40) | -14.1% |
| PHF | III | Newport News/Williamsburg International | Virginia | Exit | (4.00) | -18.5% |
| PVU | III | Provo Municipal | Utah | Exit | (4.39) | -9.7% |
| SGU | III | St. George Regional | Utah | Exit | (4.50) | -17.6% |
| SWF | III | New York Stewart International | New York | Exit | (3.80) | -22.0% |
| TOL | III | Eugene F. Kranz Toledo Express | Ohio | Exit | (4.10) | -19.6% |
| SFO | X | San Francisco International | California | Efficiency & Exit | (65.43) | -5.4% |
| MCI | I | Kansas City International | Missouri | Efficiency | (8.88) | -2.7% |
| SFB | I | Orlando Sanford International | Florida | Efficiency | (3.56) | -2.7% |
| SRQ | I | Sarasota Bradenton International | Florida | Efficiency | (4.48) | -2.7% |
| ACY | II | Atlantic City International | New Jersey | Efficiency | (1.56) | -2.7% |
| FSD | II | Sioux Falls Regional | So. Dakota | Efficiency | (1.76) | -2.7% |
| GPI | II | Glacier Park Intl. | Montana | Efficiency | (1.59) | -2.7% |
| PGD | II | Punta Gorda | Florida | Efficiency | (2.41) | -2.7% |
| ROC | II | Frederick Douglass Greater Rochester International | New York | Efficiency & Exit | (8.78) | -7.6% |
| STS | II | Charles M. Schulz - Sonoma County | California | Efficiency | (1.36) | -2.7% |

Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs
Hearing Entitled, *“The Department of Homeland Security’s Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2026”*
May 20, 2025
Questions for the Record for Secretary Kristi Noem

Questions from Senator Fetterman

QUESTION 1: The Administration’s prioritization of domestic immigration enforcement has made it necessary to temporarily assign officers from across the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) ecosystem to Immigration and Customs Enforcement’s Enforcement and Removal Operations (ICE-ERO). Many of these components, such as Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), are involved in investigations related to child exploitation, cybercrime, money laundering, smuggling, and document forgery. While enforcing our laws is mandatory, I am concerned that an overreliance on temporary duty (TDY) will leave us vulnerable to a myriad of national security threats.

- a. How does DHS determine the number of TDY’s to ICE-ERO that are necessary to each ICE field office? Does DHS have a policy or memoranda in place to determine need? If yes, please provide such documents to the Committee.

ANSWER: Homeland Security Investigations is averaging approximately 1,500 special agents assigned to immigration enforcement activities in partnership U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Enforcement and Removal Operations daily and other federal partners. These numbers are determined through the evaluation of multiple factors such as location-specific circumstances, number of anticipated arrests, and officer and public safety concerns.

- b. How does DHS ensure adequate staffing at locations that have had agents and officers TDY’d to ICE-ERO? Does DHS have a policy or memoranda in place to determine mandatory minimum staffing? If yes, please provide such documents to the Committee.

ANSWER: Homeland Security Investigations historically surges in support of U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) missions—including routinely deploying hundreds or thousands of special agents to support the U.S. Secret Service (USSS) and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP). Staffing numbers are determined using a variety of dynamic factors including officer and public safety concerns, operational impact, and ongoing investigative matters. Homeland Security Investigations does not have a policy or memoranda in place to determine mandatory minimum staffing.

- c. Have TDY’s from HSI to ICE-ERO decreased the number of investigations that HSI is undertaking? Has HSI had to hand off any investigations to state or local law enforcement entities to complete?

ANSWER: Homeland Security Investigations does not possess a metric which can accurately determine the reason for an increase or decrease in the number of investigations within its purview, as there are many factors which may impact these fluctuations. One such factor, and consistent with a whole-of-government approach, is that Homeland Security Investigations is

often called upon to support the broader DHS mission as force-multipliers. Homeland Security Investigations routinely supports not only Enforcement and Removal Operations but also the USSS and CBP. Furthermore, since January 20, 2025, Homeland Security Investigations has increased its efforts in numerous investigative programmatic areas to include worksite enforcement, transnational gangs, human smuggling, and human trafficking by leveraging its broad authorities to combat transnational criminal organizations and apprehend criminal aliens. This strategy aligns with the President's Executive Order 14159, Protecting the American People Against Invasion, which provides that the primary mission of Homeland Security Investigations is the enforcement of the provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act, and other federal laws related to the illegal entry and unlawful presence of aliens in the United States and the enforcement of the purposes of that order. While Homeland Security Investigations works closely with state and local law enforcement agencies, we do not generally fully turn over investigations we've initiated or committed to in partnership with other law enforcement agencies and have no information on any specific cases which would meet this question's intent.

QUESTION 2: Following the tragic events of September 11th, the federal government moved to make air travel safer and more secure by shifting from private contractors to a federal entity – TSA. Project 2025 and some members of Congress have proposed doing away with TSA and once again privatizing air travel security, making the safety of the flying public a for-profit enterprise. Do you oppose any efforts to privatize TSA?

ANSWER: Privatization, such as the Screening Partnership Program, has been part of the Transportation Security Administration's (TSA) mission execution since its inception. There are currently 20 airports nationwide that participate in the Screening Partnership Program, including San Francisco International Airport. As this Administration looks to modernize our transportation security and deliver a new Golden Age of Travel, TSA is laser-focused on delivering for the American people, fortifying travel security, renewing its commitment to the traveler experience, and serving as a responsible steward of the American tax dollar. TSA is open to discussing any ideas that would further strengthen transportation security.

QUESTION 3: The Administration's proposed "skinny budget" cuts \$247 million from TSA. These proposed cuts come as the U.S. prepares for increases in international visitors and domestic air travel associated with the FIFA World Cup in 2026.

How will you ensure that TSA has the resources it needs to continue their critical national security mission, particularly as it prepares to handle increased air travel in 2026?

ANSWER: The proposed reductions represent approximately four percent of the total screening workforce. The agency intends to redirect officers currently manning airport exit lanes back to their primary aviation security mission in the checkpoint and checked baggage areas, to best utilize their extensive training and expertise. Additionally, TSA continues to invest in technology designed to bolster TSA's capacity, improve efficiency, maintain high security standards, and improve the traveler experience.

QUESTION 4: The threat of adversarial cyber attacks against critical infrastructure in this country is real and it is growing. Among the most vulnerable are local and municipal utilities

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QUESTION 4: The threat of adversarial cyber attacks against critical infrastructure in this country is real and it is growing. Among the most vulnerable are local and municipal utilities

providers who lack the resources to defend against these increasingly sophisticated attacks. This became very real to me just two years ago when, right in my backyard, an Iranian hacking group took over the controls at the Municipal Water Authority of Aliquippa. Following the event, the experts at CISA were able to provide details of the attack and guidance on preventative measures to other municipal utility providers across the state and the country, ensuring that the damage didn't spread.

Thankfully, in this instance, no one was hurt, and authorities were able to regain access to the systems. This outcome is not always possible. In the face of these threats, can you justify the proposed 20 percent (approximate) cut to the CISA budget?

ANSWER: The President's Budget refocuses the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency on its core mission—federal network defense and enhancing the security and resilience of critical infrastructure. The Budget also removes offices that are duplicative of existing and effective programs at the state and federal level.

QUESTION 5: As part of the congressional budget reconciliation negotiations, members of Congress have proposed several changes to federal employee retirement that could have significant impacts on both the civilian workforce and law enforcement personnel at DHS.

- a. Do you support proposals to eliminate the Federal Employee Retirement System (FERS) annuity supplement, which federal law enforcement personnel rely on when they are forced to retire early? Explain.

ANSWER: The Secretary is fully supportive of President Trump's budget plan and federal spending reductions. As currently written, Congress excluded DHS's law enforcement officers, CBP Officers, and firefighters (a total of more than 69,000 DHS employees) who will remain eligible for the Federal Employee Retirement System annuity supplement.

There are approximately 1,000 Federal Protective Service uniformed law enforcement officers and approximately 2,600 additional law enforcement related positions that are critical to DHS accomplishing its mission. The Secretary asks Congress to also consider providing these positions an exclusion from Federal Employee Retirement System changes to ensure our front-line workforce is supported. Otherwise, a potential exodus of employees ahead of the proposed statutory changes could negatively impact the agency's law enforcement mission.

- b. Do you support changing the calculation of annuity payments from the current "high-3" system to a "high-5" system? Explain.

ANSWER: To support President Trump's priorities to reduce federal spending, we need to take a comprehensive look at federal retirement benefits, including the factors used to calculate annuity payments.

- c. Has DHS modeled how these proposed changes may affect its ability to recruit new hires to both the civilian workforce and law enforcement personnel?

- i. If so, please attach any analyses or conclusions reached as a result of the modeling to your responses to the Committee's questions.

ANSWER: The Department is unaware of any such modeling or analyses.

- ii. If not, will you conduct this modeling and share the results with the Committee as soon as possible?

ANSWER: The Department does not have plans at this time to conduct such modeling.

QUESTION 6: DHS's law enforcement workforce is also facing a surge of officer retirements. It is not only important to ensure that DHS has resources to recruit, hire, and train new agents quickly, but also to ensure that institutional knowledge is passed to new agents.

How is DHS planning to maintain institutional knowledge and pass it to a new generation of officers amid the surge in retirements?

ANSWER: ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations and Homeland Security Investigations have submitted waivers for dual compensation through the ICE Office of Human Capital. This allows for the rehiring of retired personnel across various levels, including rank-and-file, management, and executive leadership positions.

These rehired annuitants bring significant institutional knowledge, which is crucial for maintaining continuity of operations and supporting critical functions. ICE also has the capability to waive the mandatory retirement age for law enforcement positions for up to three years. This waiver is regularly utilized to extend the service of law enforcement personnel until the age of 60. This extension helps ensure that experienced officers remain onboard to assist in the transfer of knowledge to newer officers.

Homeland Security Investigations has established a robust On-the-Job Training program. The program is designed to facilitate the transfer of institutional knowledge from senior special agents and managers to new recruits. On-the-Job Training includes hundreds of hours of post-academy training, management review, and training certification. This comprehensive training provides new special agents with a solid foundation for successful careers and mission-driven success. Homeland Security Investigations also is leveraging Direct Hire Authority to expedite the hiring of additional special agents. Additionally, lateral job announcements are being utilized to hire special agents from other agencies into the current workforce.

QUESTION 7: Customs and Border Protection (CBP) faces several challenges meeting its staffing goals, including long hiring processes, a competitive job market, and an increasingly demanding workload. One constant complaint from DHS is that they need more funding to hire additional agents.

How much funding does DHS need to meet its CBP staffing goals for FY2026?

ANSWER: The Fiscal Year 2026 President's Budget funds 22,000 U.S. Border Patrol Agents and assumes enactment of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act. The combination of hiring, retention, and recruitment resources proposed in the House reconciliation bill and in the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget are expected to be sufficient. We look forward to the opportunity to work with the committee to ensure staffing levels are fully optimized, meet mission-critical staffing targets, and effectively execute its national security mission.

QUESTION 8: President Trump attempted to strip 1.5 million federal employees of their collective bargaining rights in the name of national security, including TSA agents. As my colleagues and I wrote in a letter to President Trump, there is no evidence that collective bargaining agreements at these agencies jeopardize our national security. In fact, better working conditions negotiated by unions help boost morale and keep the men and women on the job – in turn, keeping us safe every day.

Are unionized federal workers a threat to national security? If yes, please explain in detail.

ANSWER: DHS employees play a vital role in enhancing the national security of the United States through their dedicated work in various capacities. In accordance with Executive Order 14251, *Exclusions From Federal Labor Management Relations Programs*, certain agencies and subdivisions within DHS are specifically identified as having a primary function in intelligence, counterintelligence, investigative, or national security work. Overall, it has historically been DHS's stance that all DHS positions are critical to securing the homeland. As such, it is important that the Secretary be able to effectively and quickly manage the workforce without what can sometimes be a lengthy negotiation process to implement changes needed to manage the workforce. Federal laws currently provide broad protections for the workforce.

Post-Hearing Questions for the Record
Submitted to Hon. Kristi Noem
From Senator Andy Kim

“The Department of Homeland Security’s Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2026”
May 20, 2025

Families report being misled about the location of detained loved ones due to outdated ICE facility records. Officers often rely on systems with a 24–48-hour lag. Officers and facility staff may tell families that an individual is not at the location when they in fact are, but the system has not updated. Once the system is updated, the individual may be moved again, making it extremely difficult for family members to track down loved ones.

• *Questions:*

- Do you believe ICE should have real-time, accurate records of who is detained? If so, how will you ensure families and legal counsel can access that information?

Response: U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Enforcement and Removal Officers and detention facility staff utilize systems with data available in real-time or near-real-time. Near-real-time data is defined as being routinely updated throughout the day, so there could be a 20–45-minute lag between the time it is entered into the system of record and when it is displayed in systems. There are some systems which rely on statistical analysis which could have 24-hour lags; however, if an inquiry is being conducted for a specific detainee, that information can be obtained in near-real-time.

- Do you understand that delays in detainee information can seriously harm families and hinder legal representation?

Response: ICE updates its detainee information systems to provide real-time or near-real time information for all persons in ICE custody.

- ICE requires its own privacy release form, unlike the standard one used by most federal agencies.
- Will you direct ICE to review why it uses a unique privacy form, commit to sharing the results of that review with this Committee, and direct ICE to consider accepting the standard forms utilized by congressional offices and accepted by other federal agencies?

Response: ICE notes that a standard privacy waiver is sufficient for most Congressional inquiries. However, while the ICE Privacy Waiver Form 60-001 is not required to be used, this form is specifically tailored to immigration information that is protected by law. For the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to share information regarding certain immigration benefits—such as Asylum, T Visa, U Visa, Battered Spouse/Child Seeking Hardship Waiver, or Violence Against Woman Act—the

beneficiary/recipient must affirmatively waive their confidentiality rights and the ICE privacy waiver form specifically addresses this requirement. Chairs of committees that have oversight jurisdiction of DHS do not have to provide a privacy waiver in order to receive most information on an alien.

- Detainees are supposed to access the ICE privacy form through facility law libraries, but it's often unavailable. Are you aware of this issue? Will you ensure the form is consistently available in all facilities?

Response: ICE Form 60-001, Privacy Waiver Authorizing Disclosure to a Third Party, is available on the electronic law library by LexisNexis. The Privacy Waiver is also available in 13 different languages on the "I Speak [language]" databases of the electronic law library. If a detainee has any problems finding the waiver, the facility law librarian will assist, or detainees can use the multi-lingual "How to Find Resources" in "My Language" fliers to locate the specific form.

On April 24, 2025, I conducted an oversight visit to the Elizabeth Detention Center with Representative Robert Menendez following complaints that the conditions were inhumane and that families of detainees were having difficulty getting information about their loved ones.

- **Questions:**

- Are you aware of overcrowded conditions at the facility?

Response: When facilities exceed capacity, ICE works to decompress those facilities by transferring detainees to other locations with sufficient capacity. Facilities are required to abide by ICE detention standards and provide adequate care to all detainees. Please note, facility population fluctuates throughout the day as aliens are booked-in and booked-out. Since January 2025, ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations has seen a tremendous increase in the number of arrests of aliens unlawfully present in the United States resulting in increased detention. Enforcement and Removal Operations is committed to providing safe and secure detention conditions for detainees in ICE custody and works to ensure appropriate care in accordance with detention standards.

- Are you aware of sanitation issues at the facility including unsanitary bathroom conditions and showers with black mold?

Response: This facility maintains high standards of cleanliness and sanitation in accordance with ICE Performance-Based National Detention Standards 2011 (revised 2016). Compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local safety and sanitation laws is ensured by internal and external inspections, and by corrective action when required.

The facility is inspected regularly by the ICE Office of Professional Responsibility's Office of Detention Oversight in accordance with the congressional mandate. The most recent review conducted by the Office of Detention Oversight was an

unannounced inspection that took place from December 3–5, 2024, where no findings or issues of sanitation were noted.

More recently, a Detention Services Manager was on-site at the Elizabeth Contract Detention Facility from June 2–6, 2025, and did not observe any sanitation issues, nor were any noted in the weekly report. Please see attachment for a list of complaints/grievances received by the facility.

- Are you aware that some detainees have reported seeing bedbugs at the facility and that facility staff failed to notify all detainees of these conditions?

Response: In April 2025, ICE became aware of a reported pest issue, primarily affecting one dorm. The issue has since been resolved.

- Are you aware that detainees are subject to cold temperatures and there is a persistent lack of blankets and restrictions on utilizing these blankets after beds have been made?

Response: In accordance with ICE Performance-Based National Detention Standards 2011 (revised 2016), staff shall ensure sanitation, temperatures, and humidity in hold rooms are maintained at acceptable and comfortable levels. The facility maintains appropriate indoor temperatures at all times. Should a detainee experience discomfort, extra blankets, or other temperature appropriate items are available upon request. When outdoors during inclement weather, detainees are provided with temperature appropriate clothing and head gear. Furthermore, a Detention Services Manager was on-site at the Elizabeth Contract Detention Facility from June 2–6, 2025, and did not observe any issues with appropriate temperatures indoors, nor were any noted in the weekly report.

- Are you aware that detainees have been subjected to repeated fire drills and repeated head counts in the middle of the night?

Response: ICE Performance-Based National Detention Standards 2011 (revised 2016) requires compliance with fire prevention regulations, inspection requirements, and other practices, including periodic fire drills and population counts, in order to ensure the safety of detainees, staff, and visitors. Documented fire drills must be conducted at a minimum once per quarter at all facility locations, including administrative areas. Furthermore, a formal headcount is required at least once every eight hours, with verification by a shift supervisor to ensure accuracy. One of these headcounts must be conducted face to face for photo verification and is typically conducted randomly within this schedule for facility safety and security.

Furthermore, a Detention Services Manager was on-site at the Elizabeth Contract Detention Facility from June 2–6, 2025, and has not been made aware of any complaints or grievances pertaining to fire drills or counts.

The records of the fire drills that have occurred and are scheduled show that the “overnight” drills are only simulated and do not involve waking the detainees. The facility also confirmed that while count is done three times a day, only one is a face-up or face-to-face count during the day. The detainees are counted in their bunks if a count ever occurs overnight.

- Has ICE audited whether the National Detention Standards grievance process at Elizabeth Detention Center is followed as intended?

Response: The Office of Detention Oversight conducts congressionally mandated performance evaluations of ICE facilities to assess compliance with the ICE Performance-Based Detention Standard 2011 (revised 2016). The Office of Detention Oversight inspections conducted since 2021, including the most recent 2024 inspection, found no deficiencies related to the grievance process. If any deficiencies are identified, to include those related to grievances, the field office is formally notified through the Uniform Corrective Action Plan. The facility is required to correct the deficiency and submit verifiable proof of the corrective action taken.

Furthermore, a Detention Services Manager was on-site at the Elizabeth Contract Detention Facility from June 2-6, 2025, and did not observe any issues with the grievance procedures, nor were any such concerns reflected in the weekly report.

- Can you provide all submitted grievances submitted through the process over the last year?

Response: Please see attachment.

- In March it was reported that DHS ended a cooperative agreement with the University of Maryland which provided a national database tracking domestic terrorism.
- **Questions:** Are you aware that when your agency ended support for this database that the data indicated there was a 25 percent increase in terrorism and targeted violence incidents in the first two months of the Trump Administration, compared to the first two months of 2024?

Response: The financial assistance award to the University of Maryland titled “Terrorism and Targeted Violence Database Development” was cancelled on March 17, 2025. The data referenced in the Questions for the Record were not provided to DHS at the time of cancellation.

- How will you fulfill the mission of DHS in preventing terrorism when your Department is actively dismantling efforts to track it?

Response: The Department constantly evaluates its support to its various statutory missions, including the prevention of terrorism. As per 6 U.S. Code Section 111, preventing terrorist attacks is a founding mission of the Department to which the entire department contributes.

- How many resources have been diverted from combating terrorism to immigration enforcement since you took office?

Response: DHS has not diverted any funds from combating terrorism to immigration enforcement.

- Please explain how DHS will manage to avert terrorist attacks on critical infrastructure if the proposed cuts to CISA are implemented.

Response: The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency will continue to support federal, state, local, tribal, territorial, and private sector partners by reducing risk and increasing resilience for critical infrastructure against terrorist threats. Concurrently, the Department is committed to supporting the efforts outlined in the President's Fiscal Year 2026 Skinny Budget, eliminating duplication of effort to ensure that we are good stewards of taxpayer dollars and are applying necessary resources in ways that make the most impact. By leveraging state and local capabilities, our operational efficiency will be greatly enhanced, without diminishing organizational effectiveness.

Attachment to Kim Question

| Grievance Category | Request | Grievance | Requested Action | SUBMITTED |
|--------------------|--|--|---|-----------------|
| Commissary | Buenos días por favor necesito un pantalón gris talla XL | Un pantalón gris para usar en la noche | Gracias | 5/19/2015 13:18 |
| Other | | I need an eye-glass | | 5/16/2015 10:27 |
| Other | | The mattress I have now is so flat and make my waist issue worst. Please can I get a new mattress. I always have distress after I sleep on the mattress. | | 5/16/2015 12:27 |
| Other | | Hi, To my office. I have requested for an eye-glass from different officers ranging from the medical officers and some supervisors but have not gotten any response yet. This request is urgent because my medically prescribed eye-glass has been broken and I am unable to use it to take a walk down the dorm and this has made me put my eye-glass in different places that might scratch or damage it. It is your responsibility to provide me with alternative case since you refused to allow me take mine. I have already started to see some tear and wear on the eye-glass. Please help me. Thank you. I hope you can help me with this request to avoid further damage to my expensive eye-glass. Thanks in anticipation of a positive response soon. Regards. | | 5/14/2015 9:26 |
| Safety/Security | Action require | Supervisor on duty know about it 5 days ago | Hello, I had an incident with officer [REDACTED] Three days ago I had an argument about the tablet with [REDACTED] I was under guard for 24 hours. I always run and lasts everyone and everyone thinks I'm nuts [REDACTED] was here for 24 years and that I was going to die in here. I don't know what makes [REDACTED] say that or I don't know how [REDACTED] run things in here. Some things from another department makes me anxiety even worst. Officers like [REDACTED] should's work on facilities like this. I'm sorry and fear for my life now. Please take some action thanks. | 5/13/2015 18:47 |
| Other | Cama 33 clarity | Buenos días por favor necesito el historial medico que pedí la semana pasada lo necesito para mi corte que esta semana para que la abogada trabaje en mi caso | Necesito mi historial medico | 5/13/2015 9:41 |
| Other | | I had been suffering some back pain and it always have back and shoulder pain when I do not sleep in a form my mattress. The one I have now is causing me distress every morning. I wake up distressed and I feel like someone who took a long run or exercise and wake up breathless and having pain in my back and shoulder. The mattress I have now is not good at all. It is an flat as a rock and this is not good for my health. Please can I get a more foamy mattress. Thanks | | 5/8/2015 9:40 |
| Laundry | | | | 4/28/2015 8:42 |
| Other | | Someone sent me a reply to my request yesterday with this request number [REDACTED] that they will come and take me to inmate to get numbers from my phone. This is a matter of life and death. I did not see any officer to take me and I wonder if I have been forgotten. Please help me because I am in a bad situation if I do not provide this number to my family today. Thanks | | 5/8/2015 8:19 |
| Mental Health | | I'm on my third week here getting to get the right medication for my anxiety. The last 2 weeks now the doctor has been two night that have causing having panic attack now. I never had the before and since I don't have the right medication I don't sleep and now I starting to get panic attack and its getting worse and my anger is going through the roof. I need help with my medication. I understand that some people just understand some people they just want to get them but not every guard see me and the supervised from the guard so me the first night mid the first panic attack and they just say you are not allowed to have it. Just get a doctor involved. I feel like I'm going to have a heart attack. And just you know I have previous history with heart problem. Who should my lawyer talk to also my hand and hand done shit about it. The don't care bout humans in here. I understand most of us are not eligible but we are not animal for you guys you keeps us in Room with out our medication | I need my medication. As almost three weeks I need them now after them not in control of whatever happens to me guys are responsible for whatever happens to me or whatever happen in the dorm. This is not right we are humans being threat like animal I hope god forgives all of the people who are acting like they are better than anyone is here. Good bless all of you..... | 5/3/2015 16:25 |
| Trust Account | | | Solicito me ayuden con el formulario de liberación de fondos que necesito que mi esposa pueda retirar fondos y que los guardias no me han ayudado a pesar que lo he solicitado reiteradamente. Agradezco me ayuden | 5/3/2015 16:56 |

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|-------------------------------|---|---|--|-----------------|
| Denied Access to Informal Res | I wanted to bring to the notice of his platform that I was denied access to my religious books by [REDACTED]. I have a praying book that I asked my brother to send to me. This books can not be found online. It is a very old book, my brother has it and I am not able to find it. This book is a religious prayer books used by my religion in this kind of time. The denial has violated my religious right and I want those books as soon as possible | I wanted to bring to the notice of his platform that I was denied access to my religious books by [REDACTED]. I have a praying book that I asked my brother to send to me. This books can not be found online. It is a warfare book that my brother has it and I am not able to find it. It is a use in time of great tribulation like the one I am facing now. This book is a religious prayer books used by my religion in this kind of time. The denial has violated my religious right and I want those books as soon as possible | Please can someone look into his for me because in has not been praying as I am supposed to as my religion requires. | 5/1/2025 8:42 |
| Mail | I wanted to bring to the notice of his platform that I was denied access to my religious books by [REDACTED]. I have a praying book that I asked my brother to send to me. This books can not be found online. It is a warfare book that my brother has it and I am not able to find it. It is a use in time of great tribulation like the one I am facing now. This book is a religious prayer books used by my religion in this kind of time. The denial has violated my religious right and I want those books as soon as possible | I wanted to bring to the notice of his platform that I was denied access to my religious books by [REDACTED]. I have a praying book that I asked my brother to send to me. This books can not be found online. It is a warfare book that my brother has it and I am not able to find it. It is a use in time of great tribulation like the one I am facing now. This book is a religious prayer books used by my religion in this kind of time. The denial has violated my religious right and I want those books as soon as possible | Please can someone look into this for me as I have not been praying as I am supposed to as my religion requires. | 5/1/2025 8:49 |
| Other | Sometimes sent me a reply to my request yesterday with this request number: [REDACTED] that they will be come and take me to intake to get numbers from my phone. This is a matter of life and death. I did not see any effort to take me and I think it is a matter of life and death. Please help me because something bad might happen if I do not provide this number to my family today. -Thanks | Sometimes sent me a reply to my request yesterday with this request number: [REDACTED] that they will be come and take me to intake to get numbers from my phone. This is a matter of life and death. I did not see any effort to take me and I think it is a matter of life and death. Please help me because something bad might happen if I do not provide this number to my family today. -Thanks | | 5/2/2025 17:18 |
| Facility Staff | I'm following up on officer [REDACTED] discrimination to me and [REDACTED] I am not able to get my [REDACTED] I was moved from hotel to a wife because I had a dispute with one of the detainees now! I've been working in the kitchen for 4 months and no one in the kitchen has a complaint against me. the 23rd the detainee I had a issue was also working in the kitchen. The worker [REDACTED] has been not start working as a worker. I didn't say or anything to the detainees but once [REDACTED] saw officer [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] knew that the officer always show favoritism to the Spanish community in here [REDACTED] something Spanish and [REDACTED] directly told [REDACTED] to take [REDACTED] to the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] to take the other detainees back. [REDACTED] decided to take me back 2 other detainees saw the injustice and they also decided to leave the kitchen and go back to their dorm now on the way back [REDACTED] told [REDACTED] I can't wait to see you get deported [REDACTED] [REDACTED] on top of [REDACTED] took [REDACTED] upon himself to tell the kitchen workers that I can go back to the kitchen. I want this sent to ice I want a full investigation done on this racial actions taken against me and if needed I have debts 37 and debts 41 as witnesses | I'm following up on officer [REDACTED] discrimination to me and [REDACTED] I am not able to get my [REDACTED] I was moved from hotel to a wife because I had a dispute with one of the detainees now! I've been working in the kitchen for 4 months and no one in the kitchen has a complaint against me. the 23rd the detainee I had a issue was also working in the kitchen. The worker [REDACTED] has been not start working as a worker. I didn't say or anything to the detainees but once [REDACTED] saw officer [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] knew that the officer always show favoritism to the Spanish community in here [REDACTED] something Spanish and [REDACTED] directly told [REDACTED] to take [REDACTED] to the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] to take the other detainees back. [REDACTED] decided to take me back 2 other detainees saw the injustice and they also decided to leave the kitchen and go back to their dorm now on the way back [REDACTED] told [REDACTED] I can't wait to see you get deported [REDACTED] [REDACTED] on top of [REDACTED] took [REDACTED] upon himself to tell the kitchen workers that I can go back to the kitchen. I want this sent to ice I want a full investigation done on this racial actions taken against me and if needed I have debts 37 and debts 41 as witnesses | | 2/28/2025 15:25 |
| Facility Staff | Anxiety pills | I have been here since last Thursday and they have my medical record, u was approve for my medication since Monday but I have not received any since last Thursday until now. I was told today that I can't keep coming back to the nurse office everyday for it by [REDACTED] I was getting them Monday or the latest Tuesday. I totally understand they are super busy but the can't tell me that I can't keep coming back to the nurse office today and you took care of me because I am diabetic. I am not able to sleep and gain [REDACTED] But while I was talking to [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and was really resty. I told them about my hand, my hands lost feelings about they put the hand cuffs and they haven't check my hands and I'm scared because I'm diabetic. A lot of the staff are nice but also a lot of them are really nasty. They should not work on the medical area. | To have better training since they work in the medical area and not discriminate | 4/24/2025 10:26 |
| Laundry | Commissary | Last week and this week they sent the money in my commissary account but I did not receive it. | Can you please check and see what's happening and also where are the money? | 4/21/2025 11:07 |
| Mental Health | Soy [REDACTED] | Necesito hablar con un psicólogo no puedo dormir de noche y tengo muchas pesadillas | | 4/19/2025 15:29 |
| Other | No me llega la crema de mis manchas ya son 2 semanas | | | 4/19/2025 13:54 |
| Commissary | Me pasaron dinero en comisaria y yo no he reflejado para comprar los días sabado | Soy cana 6 | | 4/21/2025 10:44 |
| Other | Me debo acostito hablar con la visitadora social yo soy manchita [REDACTED] cuando podrá [REDACTED] para sacar ella a acná x [REDACTED] soy cana 6 | | | 4/15/2025 22:05 |
| Laundry | He pedido muchas veces que me den toalla para bañarme que no tengo y también no tengo solo 2 pantis y estoy con el periodo por favor si puedes traermelas por favor, gracias | No me dieron toalla para bañarme y solo tengo 2 pantis | | 4/12/2025 20:48 |
| Facility Staff | Discrimination | I just smiled and [REDACTED] threatened to put charges. I followed [REDACTED] orders and [REDACTED] walked out [REDACTED] asked for my information and very nasty | Talk to [REDACTED] treats everyone without respect | 4/10/2025 16:32 |

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|---------------------------|---|--|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Other | No me siento agustp | Estoy cansadis de una compañera que vive pendiente de todo lo que yo hago, si cito la tablita que lleva mucho tiempo, si cito en flip igual, todo es un problema y hoy estabamos en el almacero y dieron mazana. segun ella que yo me habia comido la mazana y cogido la de ella cuando no me habia comido nada y cito una mazana de la mesa, esta dandole maz y tranquilidad en las instalaciones | z | 4/9/2025 18:03 |
| Other | NecesitA que me tragan la crema que me dieron para las ronchas que me salieron en las piernas supuestamente el miercoles en la tarde me llegaban y desde ya estamos casi viernes | Me dijeron que me traigan la crema para mis ronchas el dia a martes pero no me llegado nada ya estamos casi viernes | | 4/10/2025 20:13 |
| Commissary | | Hello,We expected our commissary to be delivered yesterday but till now we have not heard anything about it. Could you please let us know if there is any commissary today as another Saturday of buying stuff is fast approaching. Please can you have one of your staff distribute e commissary as [REDACTED] the warehouse manager is out this week.Regards,- | Deliver it today please | 4/9/2025 16:38 |
| Commissary | Estoy esperando LA comisaria k ordene ya k lo k remans ese dia remanea no pude ser comisary ppr k me serraron LA cuenta y me tubieron 3 dias incomunicado no tengo ni articulos para mi asito personal los cuales ordene ent LA commissary y LA espero desde ayer espero puedan traerla hoy gracias | | | 4/9/2025 13:15 |
| Recreation | Tenemos 11 dias k no nos sacan LA bol y hay dias soldados esto es estresanta ppr favor pedimos consideracion | | | 4/9/2025 13:11 |
| Housing | | | | 4/10/2025 13:07 |
| Mental Health | | NecesitA hablar con un psicologo no puedo dormir por las noches tengo mucha miedos tengo muchas pesadillas e mAs de lo que me paso siento miedo y terror por las noches no puedo dormir y siempre suelto con ese tipo que me hace daño | | 4/10/2025 13:25 |
| Other | | On March 9th 2025, I was [REDACTED] My passport was stamped. I have been here for more than three weeks and that is why I have not been able to leave here. Also, I passed my classification in the court hearing. My status is an "arriving alien" instead of a paroled alien or "Admitted to the United States, but are deportable". For this wrongful classification, the judge denied me bond. Please review again. | | 4/4/2025 21:07 |
| Commissary | | Money was sent to my commissary account but it did not reflect. The first one was on Friday 3/28/2025 with confirmation number [REDACTED] in the amount of \$100. The second one was today Saturday 3/29/2025 in the amount of \$100. Please could you resolve this for me today so I can buy some stuff for myself today. Thank you [REDACTED] | With urgency | 3/29/2025 13:06 |
| Access to Legal Materials | | I requested to have access to my property a week ago just before my court hearing on the 3rd of April, but I was not given this benefit. At the court hearing I asked for some documents from the court and I didn't have it but it is in one of my bags. It would have been a great way out of this detention but I may not have the chance again until my next court hearing in June. I feel like I am tied down here with out having any way to fight my case and I am worried and uncertain for me not to have a access to my property before my next date. I have requested and written and asked and until now no one has seen me or tried to help me. Please can someone come to my aid. I am in real need of help here. [REDACTED] | | 4/4/2025 21:14 |
| Other | Por favor ncuipo soluciones | Yo quiero mi medicinal para poder estar bien y tambien quiero que no me la cambien | Ayudame | 3/26/2025 10:02 |
| Other | | This is my 3rd request. No help has been given. No one has answered my request. I have no food or water. I cannot sleep at all. I have bad headache and bodyache. In the morning I have blood in mouth. The medical staff here says I have a growth in my nose that needs to be surgically removed. need urgent medical care. Every day I go to sick call in the morning but all they say is that they are waiting for an appointment outside. | | 3/31/2025 16:11 |
| Food Service | Ayudame con eso | No Median LA comida que es yd soy vegetariano por favor que Median LA comida que es | Ocupo que median LA comida adecuada | 3/26/2025 10:05 |
| Trust Account | | I have worked from last Friday to this Friday and I haven't been paid. I need money to buy food today and I have nothing in my account from march 21 to march 28 | | 3/29/2025 15:22 |
| Other | I haven't been feeling good I have very bad shoulder pain from past surgery can't sleep having headaches back pain I requested go doctor they came at noon took me doctor they send me back to come with out been seen | | | 4/3/2025 17:36 |

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| Food Service | I was been to medical I spoke to the kitchen staff and I told them about the fact that I can't eat beef for religious reasons now. I've been told by ice that my request was forwarded to core civic supervisors. I've been told by whoever replied to me to give me the tray that was forwarded to the kitchen but I've been told never to speak to staff about my religion. I thought I'd be here long enough to have to worry about my diet. their's is the reason why I was never brought up I usually give my food away and resort to eating something from commissary but I shouldn't have to do that medical only told the kitchen about my seafood allergy and they told me since I can't eat beef for religious reasons I have to take up with concierge | I need my request to be forwarded to the kitchen every time they bring food I have to wait an extra 20 min to get my food because the kitchen wants to decide whether they should let me starve or give me a different diet | 2/28/2025 13:09 |
| Food Service | Its too less food to eat when we have to fast for more than 12 hours. yesterday it was only ovaltine. That cannot let us survive for so long. The regular tray has more food | More food | 3/2/2025 22:50 |
| Safety/Security | I made some complaints about Zottifiers breaking the food/dishware glassware. I also made my grievances and demands to the warden done in gathering. I have no recent reports done no witness statements taken. What is going on in this place are they just allowed to put my life at risk and nothing happens? Remember I tried it your way I'm forced to protect myself from danger whether from officer or detainees because none clue does not protect detainees | | 2/8/2025 9:25 |
| Housing | Since the arrival of [REDACTED] has been driving a wedge between the people in the dorm. It is well known for this in Alpha dorm. [REDACTED] is a [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] t-shirts from the laundry and going to have English speaking detainees for them to sign statements. [REDACTED] writes against myself [REDACTED] [REDACTED] has moved to this dorm. False sexual abuse claims in this facility has gone crazy [REDACTED] made his now girlfriend [REDACTED] a [REDACTED] against [REDACTED] [REDACTED] that could move to this dorm. A [REDACTED] was moved to this dorm all the while [REDACTED] started because [REDACTED] tried to speak with me and I told [REDACTED] keep his distance. One morning around 5 am I got up to use the bathroom and both of them were coming from behind the wall. [REDACTED] was in the bathroom and [REDACTED] was in the doorway only god knows how long and what they were doing. Since my move to Alpha dorm [REDACTED] had no complaints from staff on the other hand, [REDACTED] long have been disrespectful to me. I am moving from Alpha and I hope [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] will be no play victim. The cameras could show this them and there behavior. | | 2/28/2025 15:22 |
| Other | Every day die to my nose problems. I cannot sleep at all. I have bad headaches and body aches. In the morning these blood in mouth. The medical staff have says I have a growth in my nose that needs to be surgically removed need urgent medical care. Every day I go to sick call in the morning but all they say is that they are waiting for an appointment outside. | | 2/28/2025 22:02 |
| Facility Staff | Kitchens been used to hold still that is unacceptable. Sent me pancakes like everyone else then sent me eggs so I asked for bread. Everyone else had cereal but I couldn't have them. I was a simple request can I have some bread to eat the eggs [REDACTED] came and said eat them with the pancakes. [REDACTED] was so rude I don't want my dealings with this [REDACTED] again. As a matter of fact [REDACTED] should be fired | That someone who actually knows food nutrition be hired | 2/16/2025 8:02 |
| Recreation | | Quisiera pedir so es posible k LA reveracion so es cumplian basado Los orarios y k pasemos dias libres. Porque no se cumple con la reveracion al dia a algunos nos para to di el permiso para k estemos cumpliendo k now salen lo k no devere set ask va k at orario k cumplir con Coma nosotros estamos cumpliendo k la reveracion k la reveracion keros very so es practica k la reveracion k la reveracion k la reveracion k la reveracion 24/7 extrema LA entusiasmo es k no at oficiales k dual no devura ser problema nuestro pero siempre es posible observar oficiales diumendiando caminando para k no kieren aser LA labor k led corresponde pavidos con respeto nuestra leja sea tomada end cuenta grecas | 2/25/2025 18:09 |
| Food Service | I am Muslim. I can't eat ham which is the same as halal food. Muslim. It is discrimination. Not all people can get meat for their religion but Muslim people can. You say that Muslim cannot eat ham only vegetarian. This is discrimination. I want kosher because its halal. My constitutional rights are being violated. Why do Jewish people get special food for their religion but we do not. | Give me kosher food please | 2/21/2025 23:41 |
| Trust Account | I have worked for the past two weeks in the kitchen and received no pay Feb 7- Feb 14 and Feb 15 to Feb 21, please I need the money form commissary | | 2/20/2025 18:23 |

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|-------------------------------|--|---|---|-----------------|
| Safety/Security | This morning I was making a call to the UK the officer turned on the TV but it wasn't too loud so I got out of bed and came up there to turn the volume up because it saw me on the phone. It then told me it's not my house. I leave these people alone to sleep has been keeping several of us all night. it is regular for them to wake us up at 3am and then again at 5am to wake us up I don't understand why we have to suffer because it feel about been sexual abused and brought into this dorm this dorm has gone down hill. can't sleep plus getting stressed out with the stupid games.. | I'm bringing move it and its boy friend back to where you brought them from. This is already a stressful situation without dealing with no sleep now get to put up with all this other dumb shit. Move them together out of this dorm | 2/26/2025 8:23 | |
| Other | Friday I went to the kitchen as usual I had a issue with another detainee who was also working in the kitchen. [REDACTED] asked officer [REDACTED] to take the other detainee back but [REDACTED] [REDACTED] said that it was up to [REDACTED] would tell us both back [REDACTED] needed workers but officer [REDACTED] took it upon himself to bring me back and leave the spanish detainee. On [REDACTED] day [REDACTED] was hurling insults at me saying [REDACTED] can't wait until I get deported I have [REDACTED] and other other detainees at [REDACTED] [REDACTED] decided to take me to the dorm they also followed her when they agreed that it wasn't fair. I don't know who [REDACTED] marks all black people should be deported [REDACTED] then took it further and told the kitchen staff I'm not allowed to work in the kitchen again. I'm pretty sure [REDACTED] can't take it upon himself to say that I can't work in the kitchen no more being that [REDACTED] is not a kitchen staff nor a supervisor | | 2/24/2025 12:19 | |
| Denied Access to Informal Res | Echo 27 | Imprimir unos documentos o enviar por correo | Imprimir/A los documentos o enviar por correo | 2/26/2025 14:42 |
| Other | On the 26 of February around 5:50pm I was walking down the stairs to go get a tablet when I stop by a detainee to ask why we didn't get call for medical when all of a sudden [REDACTED] grabbed my left breast and started to squeeze it for a couple seconds. At the moment I was shocked and scared me to death. I'm not a breast cancer survivor and I don't play like that but this was very humiliating I was left speechless I don't recall if I said anything but I manage to point at the pea power. I felt powerless and violated. I never play like that with [REDACTED] so for me to be touched like that in front of other detainees was very embarrassing. I have been harassed by detainee [REDACTED] who has be saying things about me and other detainees [REDACTED] said that [REDACTED] are 100% gay and even told another detainee that [REDACTED] spoke to [REDACTED] and stands by 100%. I feel powerless because [REDACTED] is the pea officer so I don't know if he can do anything about it. I feel violated for myself. I called the hotline and left a message. I asked an officer for help in contacting the pea hotline and [REDACTED] wasn't helpful. I feel disgusting and ashamed that I freeze. Im 30 years old and a grown man grab my breast. I want to go ask for help but I can't even think about it. I have to go to the record room and won't go back down until tom. I have to wake up and wait. I can't get that image from my head. My feelings are all over. I dont know what to feel right now. | | 2/26/2025 22:27 | |
| Other | | | | 2/27/2025 11:24 |
| Safety/Security | The other day [REDACTED] stole pillow from [REDACTED] bed. I saw [REDACTED] and took it back [REDACTED] was asleep when I heard the noise [REDACTED] got up and began to shout niggas this niggas that then threatened me and began to run down the stairs never mind [REDACTED] The other day [REDACTED] can verify all of this. Since [REDACTED] brought [REDACTED] into this dorm [REDACTED] has been nothing but disruptive [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and feed on a detainee for brain dorm saying that [REDACTED] sexual abused all the [REDACTED] and a personal vendetta against [REDACTED] is used to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] the said detainee [REDACTED] is now stealing socks and shirt giving them to other detainees to log in their accounts and make grievances. I didn't believe it until one of the same detainees asked me to write to kitchen asking about his payment. If you [REDACTED] that [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] between them over 25 pairs of shorts and shirts and underwear. I mentioned this to the laundry officer just last night [REDACTED] has been telling other detainees that [REDACTED] is going to push me until I hit [REDACTED] and ice will let me out [REDACTED] is a well documented trouble Maker has been raped from every dorm I can't understand why L [REDACTED] brought [REDACTED] into this dorm. | Move [REDACTED] and his girlfriend | 2/23/2025 10:30 | |
| Food Service | I [REDACTED] stealing from the kitchen. Just check camera at night down at nine thirty last night you will surely see the big bowl of chicken breast that was stolen | | | 2/23/2025 14:04 |
| Food Service | For the past 5 months I've been giving away my food every time beef or fish comes I can't eat it, it upsets my stomach I've been to medical to let them know and they told me they don't take care of diet I have to speak to the kitchen | I would like for the kitchen to exclude beef or fish from my diet please | | 2/20/2025 17:06 |

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|----------------------------------|---|--|-----------------|
| Trust Account | | I've been working in the kitchen from Feb 7 to Feb 14 and received no pay for it. | 2/18/2025 17:30 |
| Denied Access to Informal Res | | | 2/24/2025 12:56 |
| Facility Staff | | Even with pictures been taken the kitchen manager to send me out. This man is condescending to staff in the kitchen is incorrect. The person who took the picture I made is just taking pictures for the sake of taking pictures. Its crazy for this to be happening | 2/17/2025 17:33 |
| Facility Staff | | Today in alpha dorm I lost all respect for the way behavior was handled. I had time to speak with the kitchen manager and a few others. I want them when the other detainees was disrespectful to the officer. I came back from laundry and told the officer turn on the TV. I was not aware why the TV was off but I behaved like a lunatic and caused further disrespect to the officer. Although I to corrected myself the TV was still off and I had to wait for another officer. I'm so disrespected in alpha. I've lost all respect for [redacted] as a man, I think [redacted] has personal vendetta against the officer. The other day when officer [redacted] turned the TV off for hours and hours. I'm sick of these disrespectful fuckers behaved this way. If you check the cameras you can see [redacted] is the one who wrote at the grievances. [redacted] asked them to log in and wrote all the grievances. I hate injustice. I was banging on the table shouting and screaming I thought [redacted] was going to do something to me. I'm not a violent agent. These are animal behavior as before trying to ban an officer check the cameras. Remember 90% of these disrespectful fuckers can't understand or write any English. This was personal very personal I recommend offering some psychiatric treatment. No one should behave like this absolutely no one for any reason | 2/16/2025 0:37 |
| Repiral Using Resolution Process | | Timed to appear [redacted] tonight when [redacted] came to the dorm with [redacted] racist self. I had time for conversation with the Spanish detainee but disputed at me and walked off I'm about had enough of [redacted] put my life in danger and because I complained the disrespectful behavior [redacted] receiving is another level | 2/16/2025 1:52 |
| Facility Staff | | Its Sam nearly count no TV on and the horrible Fuckers excuse the language no shouting banging and screaming. Not a peak I was praying that it would be over. I was disappointed the prison staff was not doing anything. Nothing more nothing less I am glad [redacted] very calm because I would have defected [redacted] it was unacceptable behavior on behalf of [redacted] I have no respect for [redacted] after that | 2/16/2025 7:56 |
| Safety/Security | Oficial de nombre [redacted] me grito de forma grosera no le entendí. | El oficial de nombre [redacted] en la cueta me conmigo a gritar de forma grosera y se pego hacia mi cara de una forma violenta no le entendí - que me decía y me dió miedo que me golpease tuve que alejarme de que no me golpease no hay que tener miedo a las personas de seguridad que te traen a un guarda de espaldas y te maltrato no debes tener miedo los sueldos fuercos y le explique que el oficial me grito de forma violenta y se conmigo? a re [redacted] el oficial que me grito enfrente de todos los compañeros de la cama 3 y 4 VD que estaban cerca vieron todo por favor haz algo al respecto porque no respetan y no miden su groseria-as | 2/16/2025 1:04 |
| Safety/Security | El dia de ayer se llevaron los platos de la comisaria que compre con mi dinero le informe al supervisor [redacted] no quiso escuchar de forma grosera | El dia de ayer 13 de febrero nos sacaron a los viles juegues a que los dejemos de tener y el oficial de la comisaria nos llevó cosas que no queríamos los platos que comimos en la comisaria con mi dinero y hoy 14 de febrero informe al supervisor que no nos escuchó lo Áñelito que dia fué que se llevó el estable shh y se me fue me grito y se me sacó la cara a la cara y le dije que no te deje le dije que él no tiene que sacar a la gente por que no pongo esta que porque no hay quien nos escuche aver resul informacion del inspector y me dijo que ponga la queja de esta forma | 2/14/2025 16:08 |
| Safety/Security | | I ask officer [redacted] to turn the TV on because count was done and [redacted] said so and laugh I don't know why [redacted] left a off until a detainee started to speak up and ask for a supervisor even then [redacted] didn't want to turn the TV on. [redacted] treats us bad and abuse [redacted] power because we speak Spanish. This is not right [redacted] has to follow the rules. | 2/15/2025 23:50 |
| Safety/Security | | Officer [redacted] don't turn on the TV after count [redacted] didn't say why we ask and [redacted] said no. I ask [redacted] can give a wristband for [redacted] and [redacted] no I said I need to do my laundry and [redacted] said I need to go to the washroom [redacted] said I ask who [redacted] because no and that's it [redacted] turn the TV after [redacted] complain and told [redacted] can abuse [redacted] power, we ask for supervisor and [redacted] said no [redacted] also call us wetbacks that's no good [redacted] very bad person. | 2/15/2025 22:57 |

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| Safety/Security | I asked officer [redacted] for a call for my coronary pain and [redacted] said no you shout and laugh on my face. [redacted] didn't turn the TV on after count and didn't say why. [redacted] turn it back on at 10:05pm after a fellow detainee spoke english and started to voice a [redacted] concern | 2/15/2015 22:50 |
| Safety/Security | [redacted] had the TV off for 1 hour after count was done for no reason whatever. [redacted] laughs at us because we can speak English when we try to ask [redacted] something. [redacted] is a very bad officer and makes us feel not safe. When we ask for a supervisor [redacted] refuses and says no. [redacted] has power and is not afraid to show it. | 2/15/2015 22:44 |
| Safety/Security | [redacted] o los queas prender la televisión despues de la cuenta de las 8 no los dijo porque [redacted] personas se reúne en nuestras carceles [redacted] racista con hispanos y ella necesita ayuda. Por favor ella nos expida y no hace sentido que no tenemos vos. Por favor ayuda | 2/15/2015 22:38 |
| Safety/Security | On 2/16/2015 around 9:30pm a detainee came to me and asked that he turn the TV off. I told him [redacted] came from taking a shower. I then asked officer [redacted] and [redacted] said turn the TV on so i can watch some basketball. I said no. I said for what reason. [redacted] said because I told [redacted] that's not a good reason. [redacted] told me: I told [redacted] told me no. I refused multiple times. [redacted] then said oh because [redacted] is a supervisor. I told him to turn the TV off we can lower the volume. [redacted] said no. I have asked multiple times for a supervisor and [redacted] said no telling us noisy webbacks when we were yelling for [redacted] to call a supervisor. This is unacceptable. Your form and [redacted] and [redacted] should not be allowed to interact with people. [redacted] is a [redacted] detective for [redacted] having access to commissary and mocked me for standing up and calling [redacted] out when [redacted] is wrong. [redacted] didn't want to get a supervisor but [redacted] forgot I had to go to medical to get my sleeping pill and [redacted] started to tell officer [redacted] that he was a supervisor. [redacted] was doing what [redacted] was doing was wrong and took me to a supervisor. Unfortunately supervisor towns did very little to handle this situation and when officer [redacted] came back from talking to a supervisor [redacted] was laughing and mocking me telling me I did [redacted] for nothing. [redacted] is a [redacted] Karate and [redacted] [redacted] in a threatening way. [redacted] is a security risk and uses [redacted] position of power to belittle us and mock us. [redacted] has zero regards for the rules | 2/15/2015 22:30 needs to be fired. [redacted] isn't right in the head. [redacted] is a [redacted] who not to long ago punch a detainee. We feel like our voices aren't being heard. When will this stop? When [redacted] stops a detainee? Please take this incident very serious. |
| Safety/Security | I asked [redacted] to turn the TV on after count and [redacted] didn't want to. [redacted] was told to turn it off. [redacted] was laughing and [redacted] because [redacted] did people in the house talking. Another officer have no problem. [redacted] didn't turn TV on until 10pm when an officer came. Please don't send [redacted] anymore here we don't feel safe with [redacted] | 2/15/2015 23:55 Don't send [redacted] to alpha |
| Other | Today I witnessed [redacted] disrespect officer [redacted] and isolate others to follow behind [redacted] simply had the TV off because one detainee refused to put on the uniform after [redacted] asked [redacted] to do it twice. Even though I wanted to watch TV as well [redacted] was told to turn the TV off. [redacted] isolate us by turning off the TV for a [redacted] [redacted] seen plenty officers off the TV before and no one dared to disrespect them so they disrespected officer [redacted] today I believe [redacted] has a special vendetta against the officer because [redacted] made 5 or 6 detainees to do [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] always a [redacted] for every single one of them. One night [redacted] they have this special bond with supervisor [redacted] where [redacted] show favoritism to all the Spanish detainees whether [redacted] they're right or wrong. They didn't want to speak to any other supervisor they waited for [redacted] to come in and personally communicated to [redacted] because they know [redacted] always chooses their side | 2/16/2015 1:04 |
| Safety/Security | I asked [redacted] to please turn on TV [redacted] and he and [redacted] in my face [redacted] said more stuff but didn't know what [redacted] said. [redacted] turn the TV back on around 11:05pm when one detainee spoke up and told [redacted] to call a supervisor and [redacted] said no [redacted] power and makes us feel like that [redacted] said webback to us and started to laugh maybe [redacted] doesn't think we know what that is but when you get called that is the USA you know. | 2/15/2015 23:05 |

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| Safety/Security | <p>█████ needs help. After I return from laundry I notice the TV on. I didn't think nothing of it, then an █████ turn the TV on and █████ said no because people are on the phone and computer. I found it strange because no officer does this. █████ abuse power and things we don't understand what we don't know. █████ turn the TV on and our faces would try to get █████ to do the task. When █████ came to talk and mock █████ also asked other officer not to call a supervisor. █████ banged on the window and told him Not to listen to █████ turn the TV backs on around 10:05 and that's because █████ had a reason for tactical and knew we were going to pay commissary. █████ is a problem. █████ told me █████ to do heavy drugs and majority is back on them. █████ needs serious help. Please help. █████ is abusing power because █████ know █████ can not get in trouble</p> | Fire █████ or don't have █████ with people | 2/15/2015 23:13 |
| Safety/Security | <p>Officer █████ needs to get help. █████ abuse █████ power. I witness █████ say do when a detainee ask █████ to call a supervisor. When a detainee request a supervisor we should be able to have the right. It is not right for an officer to put out say no for whatever reason. Please █████ needs help.</p> | | 2/15/2015 23:18 |
| Violations of Fed/State Reg. | <p>Officer █████ has shown discrimination and has used █████ has not been nice to me when talk to other officers. █████ is not nice to tell me when talk to other officers. █████ is not nice to tell me. This is for the crasht and student thing and officer has said █████ has zero regard for the rules or the detainee handbook. In the detainee handbook it states that we have the right to freedom of discrimination base on our race and ethnicity. █████ has made of dear that █████ gives █████ F's about that. If a detainee breaks a rule █████ will be held accountable when does an officer get held accountable?</p> | | 2/15/2015 23:44 |
| Housing | <p>Dorm designed, built and equipped for 40 detainees has been housing additional detainees in STACK A BUNK beds. Toilet #5 constantly out of order. Drinking water fountain does not work. Sickness outbreak in dorm leading to rapid cross contamination.</p> | <p>Overcrowding. Sanitation. Hydration. Contamination.</p> | <p>Please stop overcrowding in dorm. Fix toilet. Repair water fountain. Segregate detainees with respiratory illnesses. As soon as possible. Thank you!</p> |
| Other | <p>████ dorm has only 4 tablets. And 1 wall phone is broken. This has not changed in many weeks. There are very long wait times to use the phone.</p> | <p>More tablets and fix phone</p> | 2/17/2015 16:40 |
| Facility Staff | <p>Officer █████ is a good officer and the ones respect directed today toward me by █████ and █████. █████ only turned the TV off because some detainees were very disrespectful. I saw other officers do the same and nothing was said or done to them. I wasn't going to get involved but I saw officer █████ come to the dorm around 1:00 am and a detainee was to complain about █████. █████ was trying to speak with █████ █████ shouted something to █████ I turned out we all know █████ always sides with the Spanish so I decided to share my side of the story. check the camera and see his behavior.</p> | | 2/16/2015 1:15 |
| Housing | | | 2/17/2015 13:36 |
| Food Service | | <p>We are not allow to order commissary and the food y they provide is not enough we need your attention in this matter</p> | 2/17/2015 12:42 |
| Mental Health | Depression medication | I need my depression medication | 2/17/2015 13:55 |
| Violations of Fed/State Reg. | We are not able to report anything by phone the speed dial numbers are blocked | | 2/18/2015 8:09 |
| Laundry | I'm wearing the same under T-shirt since 02/12/2015 and 2 others detainees your attention is urgent | I'm wearing the same under T-shirt since 02/12/2015 and 2 others detainees your attention is urgent | 2/18/2015 8:13 |
| Laundry | | I'm wearing the same under T-shirt since 02/12/2015 and 2 others detainees your attention is urgent | 2/18/2015 8:17 |
| Access to Legal Materials | | I'm requesting copy of my charging documents I Haven receive my copy from intake | 2/18/2015 15:44 |
| Other | Failing to control my blood sugar is reaching dangerous levels up to 485 | Failing to control my blood sugar is reaching dangerous levels up to 485 | 2/17/2015 22:33 |
| Other | Feb 7 to Feb 14 i worked in the dorm and received no pay | | 2/15/2015 18:21 |
| Trust Account | I worked in the dorm from Feb 7 to Feb 14 and received no pay | | 2/15/2015 18:24 |
| Food Service | | Requesting special diet. Special diet requesting is vegetarian and I eat chicken. Cordially | 2/14/2015 21:16 |
| Trust Account | I have worked in the kitchen for the past two weeks and received no pay | | 2/8/2015 0:20 |

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| Recreation | | | Exigencias a los paises al border ya a pasemos MAS de una semana a no me dejan tambien sobre el canebios de uniforme a lo asen semanal y sobre los oficial kienes enbiences asen amenazas de mandarlos para. PA y los bañados k estan llenos de hongos at mucho polvo y sobre y DSO estan creyendo los grises y el juez de la corte en demanda de el informe de lo q qen de qen y qen no nece el oculista para examen de LA vista espero k lo do esto k lo notificado sea evaluado para el mejor trato y funcionamiento [REDACTED] por el tiempo | 2/13/2025 19:01 |
| Facility Staff | I want to talk to someone to find out why I'm still in this place | When ice going to come on get me??????? | Today is wednesday I have bin in her since last week wednesday it's bin one week since I come here on I'm still here I want to know why they came on get every thing I have to do is pack up my things I was going to leave with in couple days three or four days on they still didn't tell me to pack up I want to know the reason why ey didn't tell me to pack up. | 2/12/2025 8:44 |
| Recreation | | Rec 2 / Gym was denied to Fox dorm on: Monday 2/10 4PM(wednesday 2/11 2PM This is NOT GOOD for physical or mental health!) | Please ensure Fox Doms has access to Rec 2 / Gym for the remainder of this week. Thank you. | 2/12/2025 7:47 |
| Mail | | I saw Miss [REDACTED] tonight and [REDACTED] said core chuc had a new policy that mentioned colour of envelope size of envelope and weight of envelope. Can you please have [REDACTED] talk with you about you can go down to pick up mailing pieces because this document has been passed by the ice director because I'll be sending it to [REDACTED] and the department of homeland security. You and Miss [REDACTED] seems to be making up the rules and using feelings to do as you please. I've added to see the supervisor tomorrow and I'll be speaking with [REDACTED] regarding this new policy. | Bring a copy of the new policy when you come to collect mail in the morning. Simple as that or make sure my mail gets sent registered. Mail tomorrow and I need a copy of the mailing slip too many han and cover up in this facility. | 1/30/2025 22:36 |
| Food Service | | Today was icing on the cake for me. The lunch was sent in dirty trays. Not only mine but several trays. I don't want anything more from this kitchen. | All plastic trays be replaced by metallic trays. Actually I don't care I know what I have to do | 1/30/2025 12:40 |
| Other | 1) I never been to jail, not facing jail. Only had 1 minor accident with neighbor, we talk about court fees and dismissal that's all. Because person was abusing my kids. 2) I never been to jail, not facing court fees and dismissal that's all. Because person was abusing my kids. 3) I never been to jail, not facing court fees and dismissal that's all. Because person was abusing my kids. 4) I never been to jail, not facing court fees and dismissal that's all. Because person was abusing my kids. 5) I never been to jail, not facing court fees and dismissal that's all. Because person was abusing my kids. 6) I never been to jail, not facing court fees and dismissal that's all. Because person was abusing my kids. 7) I never been to jail, not facing court fees and dismissal that's all. Because person was abusing my kids. 8) I never been to jail, not facing court fees and dismissal that's all. 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Because person was abusing my kids. 198) I never been to jail, not facing court fees and dismissal that's all. Because person was abusing my kids. 199) I never been to jail, not facing court fees and dismissal that's all. Because person was abusing my kids. 200) I never been to jail, not facing court fees and dismissal that's all. Because person was abusing my kids. | 2/10/2025 10:32 | | |
| Other | My criminal court was discharged. I never went there. It was downgraded to Old Bridge municipal, I'm facing court fees and dismissal. Or probationary dismissal. There is no charges on me, nobody got hurt or damaged! Please let me go home | | | 2/10/2025 12:33 |
| Other | My criminal attorney [REDACTED] 201-400 [REDACTED] read all my paperwork, it doesn't mention that I'm an immigrant, and I'm not allowed to go to court in the US. I don't have any criminal pending or so, it was dismissed! Immigration attorney said I can't be locked up with my status. Paperwork is saying I can't be held for more than 7 days, without immigration or criminal charges. There shouldn't be a reason for none of them. We never received a notice regarding immigration interview | | | 2/10/2025 14:37 |
| Facility Staff | | Miss [REDACTED] after our conversation in our library regarding the incident when I ate an apple full of the worm. I will continue to write everyday until this matter is dealt with correctly and I who has the grievance is satisfied that it was handled properly. So I'm again asking you to follow the correct protocol I would like to know how the protocol on documenting an incident is done. Who is responsible for logging the incident? The officer in the dorm did his job in documenting the worm [REDACTED] saw in the apple what was captain [REDACTED] supposed to do [REDACTED] follow the correct protocol. A lot of time and time was spent to set these procedures in place so it is important that they are followed when they are needed? Why is there no log about the incident in the captains book? Why are there no pictures? Why isn't there a log in the kitchens book? why wasn't the apple placed in an evidence bag? Why wasn't the supplier contacted? If over 200 apples were thrown away who bears the cost? Surely someone has to be held accountable. Who is that entity? | Just answer honestly. No more cover ups no more lies just let who failed be accountable | 1/21/2025 21:53 |

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|---------------------------|---|--|---|-----------------|
| Safety/Security | | Asked to speak with a supervisor regarding issue with mail that been sent captain [REDACTED] refused and its now 6-30 pm no supervisor has shown up . bet they same ! Been difficult when i don't move for count without my issue dealt with | People do their jobs stop playing games with people lives | 1/30/2025 18:27 |
| Facility Staff | | Officer [REDACTED] came to a [REDACTED] in the morning started yelling right away and as i was [REDACTED] I heard from the kitchen I been up since 5 am my bed is made and everything on my end is up to part now other detainees were telling [REDACTED] to lower [REDACTED] voice we understand we gotta make our beds and [REDACTED] start getting disrespectful telling people to tell them to [REDACTED] so we can [REDACTED] a complaint [REDACTED] [REDACTED] one page and sign our name why was i told that i could be charged for writing a prohibited group petition how is a complaint on an officer considered a prohibited group petition ? | | 1/4/2025 10:53 |
| Facility Staff | Over 60 dollars taken using grievance and resolution apps | Myself and all the other detainees are been charged for using the grievance and resolution apps. I think that this is illegal and immoral. I am requesting the over 60 dollars taken from me be placed back on my account within a 7 day period to ensure that all the other detainees face no more hardships speaking with our families and our legal representatives. Without access to call you are preventing us from getting the legal representations which we need . | Money stolen be placed backed in our accounts within 7 days and we not charged again for these services | 1/9/2025 18:24 |
| Access to Legal Materials | | I just showed officer who logged it in book i didn't move from [REDACTED] right. Its costing money for notices grievances and request. | All my account printed from November until present | 1/10/2025 9:32 |
| Access to Legal Materials | | STATE GRIEVANCE (Include documentation, witnesses, date of incident, and any other information pertaining to the grievance submitted.) Myself and all the other detainees are been charged for using the grievance and resolution apps. I think that this is illegal and immoral. I am requesting the over 60 dollars taken from me be placed back on my account within a 7 day period to ensure that I and all detainees face no more hardships speaking with our families and our legal representatives. Without access to call you are preventing us from getting the legal representations which we need . | Money returned. Provided investigated. | 1/9/2025 18:28 |
| Safety/Security | | Last night at 11 supervisor [REDACTED] informed the night officer that the detainees were making too much noise after 11 the night officer with his unprofessional way went to the detainees and said keep quiet because [REDACTED] complained. To add insult to injury [REDACTED] told them 3 times after. Each time [REDACTED] pointed to my bed and said [REDACTED] to the other trouble maker the nigger wrote us up [REDACTED] and again that black mother fucker wrote us up [REDACTED] it was someone else they might have jumped me or killed me. Im bringing this up with ICE and homeland security because a confidential process was broken that could have caused life changing issues even death. | Officer fired no other action other than that | 1/24/2025 11:45 |
| Safety/Security | | Despite writing and complains someone put all the trouble makers together [REDACTED] moved to [REDACTED] with the other trouble makers [REDACTED] but [REDACTED] right now . i guess because other detainees don't cause trouble we don't have any say . i'm not moving down again so the facility needs to do something | | 1/13/2025 20:00 |
| Facility Staff | | This is beyond stupid for tation to be allowed to place these apps clearly in pay per use sections on the tablet. No matter where you go on the tablet these apps should be free as stated in the detainee handbook. This is a clear violation by tation and is accepted by this facility | Tation send back mine and every detainee they have charged | 1/23/2025 16:43 |
| Safety/Security | | Since supervisor [REDACTED] wrote the confidential complaint process and told officer [REDACTED] that I wrote a grievance on some trouble making detainees there has been nothing but stress. I walk around I hear them saying nape nigga nape black mother [REDACTED] I've never heard that from the officers and forth with them [REDACTED] makes this absolutely clear that the one that hits me will be met with extreme violence. The victimization and insults thrown at me will not be tolerated much longer. I'm waiting patiently to see how long I have due to the fact I'm not staying here. The favorite officer [REDACTED] and supervisor [REDACTED] shown to the Spanish detainees but this time they need moving. The officer and the supervisor [REDACTED] needs to be fired nothing less would be satisfactory. In the core civic detainees handbook it clearly States how the confidential complaint process should work and they both broke it and put my life in danger. | Cameras checked to see officer [REDACTED] intent to my bed several times. Witness [REDACTED] statements taken to prove the results. [REDACTED] also saw the officer pointing to my bed. These detainees moved and split up even charges brought and the two officers suspended until they are fired | 1/25/2025 11:24 |

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| Facility Staff | <p>It seems like the detainees don't wash their dirty plastic tray's with soap. I do the dishes with lunch including mine. I thought it was only me getting dirty trays but according to the detainees working in the kitchen it's a normal thing. They said that the tray's are not washed using any soap. Only sprayed and washed with hot water. Plastic holds a lot of germs. I think with the kitchen constantly short staffed it would be wise to get stainless steel tray's. much easier to clean and clearly more sanitary.</p> | <p>Get rid of all old plastic tray's and get stainless steel tray's. Its best all around. Easier to clean better on the detainees and last forever</p> | 1/30/2025 13:53 | |
| Facility Staff | <p>The person who verified my tray is responsible for making sure it was cleaned. Its OK. the best way to do it is in a dirty ass tray. I never consider what have on this. The picture taking is for show nothing else. I don't care for food from this place</p> | | 1/30/2025 12:53 | |
| Facility Staff | <p>It was 1:30 when [REDACTED] decided that it was OK to stop taking my [REDACTED] all the detainees in there were decided to place them together. It was bad enough when they were separated now its worst. Supervisor [REDACTED] brought coming at 11 for 5 minutes would solve the problem but soon as [REDACTED] left it started. To add to it was the [REDACTED] took my [REDACTED] to sleep quiet because someone was complain and was pointing to my bed. That was very professional of [REDACTED] I brought this up to [REDACTED] this morning in front of the other officer. Who relieved [REDACTED] I could here them saying sapo sapo sapo. All this because I write up [REDACTED] is trying to get pay back. I'll be writing to ICE and Homeland security regarding this</p> | <p>I don't know either split them up or move them. They don't care because they are getting deported.</p> | 1/24/2025 7:26 | |
| Facility Staff | <p>This is for supervisor [REDACTED] he mentioned the people not letting us sleep you said you would come at 11 yesterday. The same people who woke us up at 2am in the morning yet you didn't come to speak with them. They stay up until 1am in the morning not caring away with no regards to anyone. Please come to speak with us. I am not the Spanish make a chance you come to speak with me but if you don't someone else nothing happens. I am documenting this so if anything happens I've got proof. [REDACTED] continues to steal from the kitchen sticking food down their pants. [REDACTED] was caught by officer in the dorm it seems nothing gets done so they do more and more. I'm not been moved again because of favoritism hence I'm writing this</p> | <p>Removal of the trouble makers</p> | 1/21/2025 21:17 | |
| Facility Staff | <p>Clean this area it is not working the kitchen sent me fish sticks today. I can't make this shit up.</p> | | 1/27/2025 12:05 | |
| Other | <p>H dorm has only 4 tablets. And 1 wall phone is broken. This has not changed in 2 weeks despite asking the officers and supervisor. Please give more tablets and fix the wall phone</p> | | 1/29/2025 12:22 | |
| Access to Legal Materials | <p>Today after a comedy of errors I missed my lawyer call which was scheduled for 5pm. they only came for 5 minutes past 5 so twenty minutes past the scheduled lawyer call. So guess who suffers me not them only me</p> | <p>Come 10to 20 minutes before scheduled lawyer calls</p> | 1/10/2025 17:46 | |
| Facility Staff | <p>Dear facility, the whole of brave dorm is sick of [REDACTED] [REDACTED] is a bully who snatches tablets from people all the time and hides them under [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] looks around other beds claiming to look for tablets. [REDACTED] abuses officers but I wonder if they ever [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] is a [REDACTED] [REDACTED] but his [REDACTED] hasn't been changed yet [REDACTED] is all the time looking at his naked dick on his bed which makes it very uncomfortable to walk around. Writing letters to [REDACTED] [REDACTED] pra so why isn't [REDACTED] been punished yet???? [REDACTED] never regularly and always abuses other detainees in the dorm. Even though of this guy [REDACTED] in single housing unit [REDACTED] doesn't corrupts other detainees. I demand immediate action and if my words aren't trusted just send [REDACTED] to bravo and ask every detainee</p> | <p>Told above</p> | <p>Remove [REDACTED] from the dorm</p> | 1/24/2025 19:15 |
| Violations of Fed/State Reg. | <p>The Muslim pot in H dorm was thrown in the trash by a detainee 2 weeks ago. We have asked several supervisors to replace. No one has done anything. We have the right to practice our faith. We are not allowed to do that. We have the right to practice our faith in being violated. it seems like this facility is deliberately violating our legal rights. U guys must take action about this we have spoken with the warden as well but no action is being taken.</p> | <p>Provide muslim pot to dorm H</p> | 1/22/2025 22:34 | |
| Access to Legal Materials | <p>Core civic has [REDACTED] for law library doing all kinds of different things instead of doing [REDACTED] job in law library. I suppose to send more legal stuff to the law library and my lawyer has [REDACTED] days now one from eight does not have access. There is a knock on effect this keeps us in this position in lock up longer than need. Only us detainees feel the hardships caused by [REDACTED] not been able to do [REDACTED] job.</p> | <p>Get some more staff</p> | 1/14/2025 15:31 | |
| Access to Legal Materials | <p>Today again no access to law library now my paperwork won't be completed in time.</p> | <p>Need more staff we [REDACTED] could do [REDACTED] 24hr law library more efficient [REDACTED] is always busy with zoom this soon that.</p> | 1/15/2025 17:56 | |

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| Facility Staff | <p>Good evening. Last day I come facility. Elizabeth. Officer Staff give me High classification and green clothes. I stay in 3 another detention centers. 1 years 3 month my classification LOW. But officer gave High classification. My friend and family live in New York. They can't come to see me. They can't come to see me High and they can't. Officer's fault. On intake officer of EOC made an error in me classification level. My classification level was low before. [REDACTED] changed it to high. Please fix error and punish him.</p> | <p>Good evening. Last day I come facility. Elizabeth. Officer Staff give me High classification and green clothes. I stay in 3 another detention centers. 1 years 3 month my classification LOW. But officer gave High classification. My friend and family live in New York. They can't come to see me. They can't come to see me High and they can't. Officer's fault. On intake officer of EOC made an error in me classification level. My classification level was low before [REDACTED] changed it to high. Please fix error and punish him.</p> | 1/26/2023 22:01 |
| Facility Staff | <p>[REDACTED] keeps on staring me down. Spreading false claims about me... Complaining to everyone about me... Like I'm the bad guy... He's the one that stole my food. He's the one asking for my unnecessary things... He's the one that needs to call daddy... And the other officers and other staff [REDACTED] have to move... ... don't understand why people scared of [REDACTED] [REDACTED] run this place. This guy is so greedy. [REDACTED] big and other officers for their food. This is outrageous. I don't know why y'all let this happen. [REDACTED] think about people's rights and [REDACTED] think everything revoke account. [REDACTED] wanna be in a quiet place they should move to hotel. They don't even make noise... This is why all the other people left before [REDACTED] know how [REDACTED] would know was like this [REDACTED] know too. [REDACTED] too. [REDACTED] take too much advantage off everyone. [REDACTED] all of the other people in here except for [REDACTED] I don't understand why everyone turns to the other eye like y'all don't see all these problems with [REDACTED]</p> | <p>Move [REDACTED] not me... I'm the one getting my stuff stolen by [REDACTED] why should I be punished and removed out...?!!</p> | 1/27/2023 21:24 |
| Mental Health | <p>Today my mesh potato had lumps of white powder in it, as [REDACTED] open the door to check my meal. It was clearly visible. I needed the officer to come and [REDACTED] expected me for the extra tray that was already there. [REDACTED] to be extra calling every 5 minutes for a supervisor. After 40 minutes a supervisor arrived. [REDACTED] was mad as [REDACTED] if some one was calling him 5 minutes. I explained the issue and the same supervisor that was there before [REDACTED] told [REDACTED] to give [REDACTED] only warning then [REDACTED] said that there was no powder present in the pictures taken today. I'm sorry that the meal was dumped in the garbage or I would have asked for it to be tested. I personally thought it was dry mesh potato powder but my mind is racing. I don't know what to think. It seems that everyday its something I give up rather just stand this is not right</p> | <p>I need to see mental health I feel these people are playing games with my life</p> | 1/6/2025 18:30 |
| Access to Legal Materials | <p>Last wee [REDACTED] was so busy doing other stuff [REDACTED] only managed to give us 2 hours in the law library. This is becoming the norm.</p> | <p>Get [REDACTED] some help so we can get the minimum 5 hours we need</p> | 1/20/2025 18:27 |
| Food Service | <p>Against all odds another mess up taking pictures clearly isn't working. New year same crap. They sent me a sandwich they say I had to pay for. The officer wrote in the log so they can't continue to lie. They sent me hard boiled eggs this week along with scrambled eggs yet they say I can't have waffles which I've had since been here in this establishment because they say eggs are not healthy. But now we are quite healthy. The height of stupidity is coming. This kitchen has dairy chicken. Yet they send scrambled eggs and hard boiled eggs to add insult to injury they sent me butter which is made from milk. My life is in danger with this kitchen</p> | <p>I've ran out of solutions I'll take the necessary steps to get all authorities involved</p> | 1/10/2025 7:56 |
| Mail | <p>Today I was told that my mail can't be sent freely but according to the core civic detainee handbook detainees with 15.00 or less are considered indigent and are permitted to mail a reasonable amount of mail at no expense. As determined by the facility administrator to include up to five pieces of general correspondence or legal mail, three pieces of general correspondence and packages as deemed necessary by ice. Page 22 of the core civic detainee handbook. So can you please collect these pieces in the morning. In the ICE nations detainee handbook says basically the same thing. So please don't violate my rights</p> | <p>Mail picked up and sent out right away</p> | 1/23/2023 16:32 |
| Mail | <p>It clearly states in the Elizabeth detention center detainees handbook page 2 under paragraph outgoing and incoming mail. Detainees with 15.00 or less are considered indigent. Indigent detainees will be permitted to mail a reasonable amount of mail each week at NO expense. As determined by the facility administrator to include up to five pieces of general correspondence or legal mail. Three pieces of general correspondence/packages as deemed necessary by ice from this how can it mean five pages you have now stopped my legal mail from going out preventing me from getting legal representation I'll be writing to homeland security and ICE regarding this matter also</p> | <p>Day mail now needs to be sent priority mail now because of the 2 day delay the mail room has caused</p> | 1/24/2025 8:48 |

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| Facility Staff | <p>On January 21 around staff change we got officer [REDACTED]. A detainee asked me to tell the officer to change the channel to sports. I told [REDACTED] could change it and [REDACTED] said okay then ask me what channel. I then proceed to tell [REDACTED] can you hit channel then 140 so from there we can go up the list since we didn't have that channel. I then asked [REDACTED] to turn it to a humbler channel and not hit 140 and go up to 140 so [REDACTED] pick one in a aggressive tone. I then restate that [REDACTED] had to hit guide and hit 140 and go up to 140 so [REDACTED] started to bug out and then I requested for a supervisor [REDACTED] said no I said again I need to talk to a supervisor [REDACTED] said no. This is uncalled for as a job [REDACTED] has to do is over us and do simple tasks like change the channel. How do we know what channel we want to watch [REDACTED] can't scroll through the guide [REDACTED] gets paid \$33 to simple do that. This is not the first time [REDACTED] has done this. [REDACTED] has been heard noises or screaming to the other officer next door to pick up his radio. This is unprofessional. If she's can't handle simple human interaction [REDACTED] should do other task besides dorms. This bipolar behavior isn't safe.</p> | needs to be retrain or talked too. | 1/21/2025 15:35 | |
| Facility Staff | <p>I would like the staff make the detainees to go to their beds and stop them from screaming and talking when the lights go out at night. There is no enforcement of this, and no one gets punished when they disobey these rules and disturb the other detainees when they try to sleep.</p> | <p>The enforcement of disruptive individuals is in my opinion very minimal here. The detainees seem to have little fear of retribution. They are allowed to do whatever they want in the dorms when the lights go out and talk and scream for hours until they're done and go to sleep. I have witnessed this for multiple units. The guards do very little if nothing at all to stop this. They are polite to very rude and mentally abusive individuals.</p> | <p>Punish people who disobey the rules, and do not go to their beds at night and make disturbing amounts of noise. Force the staff to be more assertive when dealing with disruptive individuals.</p> | 1/22/2025 18:19 |
| Access to Legal Materials | <p>STATE GRIEVANCE (Include documentation, witnesses, date of incident and any other information relating to the grievance submitted) I observed all the other detainees that are been charged for using the grievance and resolution app. I think that this is illegal and immoral. I am requesting the over 60 dollars taken from me be placed back in my account within a 7 day period. To ensure that all the other detainees have the same hardships as me with our families and our legal Representatives. Without access to call in us as preventing us from getting the legal representations which we need . check yesterday afternoon. I showed the officer the balance before I checked the grievances then I logged out in front of [REDACTED] than did it again</p> | Stop trying to cover up stuff | 1/10/2025 9:16 | |
| Access to Legal Materials | I just showed officer who logged it in book now I'm doing it again | Check account | 1/10/2025 9:24 | |
| Commissary | Te les notificado tres veces por la tablero y al personal | Les recuerdo a todos vía a me falta una semana de trabajo han un pago ya me han tres veces seguidas notificando | 1/16/2025 7:32 | |
| Facility Staff | <p>I have had the tablet in the morning and I gave it back after 1/2 hour officer devons took it back and I asked [REDACTED] to put me back in [REDACTED] did not do it. They told me to take it back again which is not fair because whatever put their name first got the tablet first [REDACTED] has a special vendetta against me. I'm not satisfied with the action taken against the officer [REDACTED] deserves the tablet when it was clear they had a mistake and when they saw the mistake they were scared instead of correcting the officer [REDACTED] advised me to give the tablet back. I'm allowed to get the tablet however many times I want it during the day in this case it was only my second time.</p> | Other than not eating anything else from this kitchen I don't know | 1/15/2025 17:47 | |
| Facility Staff | <p>Against all odds another mess up taking pictures clearly isn't working. New year same crap. I wasn't sent waffles because they said they contained eggs. The officer wrote it in the log so they can't say I didn't eat them. They sent me hard boiled eggs this was along with scrambled eggs yesterday I can't believe whether which I've had since been here in this establishment because they have eggs. At first it was amusing but now I'm quite concerned. The height of stupidity is concerning. This kitchen has daily chickens. Yet they send scrambled eggs and hard boiled eggs to add insult to injury they sent me butter which is made from milk. My life is in danger with this kitchen</p> | Other than not eating anything else from this kitchen I don't know | 1/10/2025 8:02 | |
| Visitation | Puede venir el supervisor por favor no me quiten las cosas de [REDACTED] | Que por favor no destruio mis viandas no aguas oto porque me an quitado mis viandas la ocupo aca de favor las necesito veo que no a [REDACTED] y respeto el es muy sagrado para mi gracias a este lugar e conocido a [REDACTED] y es Como que me lo arrebata pero el save y conoce los corazones gracias [REDACTED] bendiga | 1/17/2025 16:49 | |

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|----------------|--|--|--|-----------------|
| Facility Staff | <p>Today at about 3 pm I finally asked officer [REDACTED] to radio [REDACTED] and ask about my commissary because I was supposed to get it yesterday and I didn't. Now its possible for it to take an extra day but its almost the end of the morning shift and I still didn't receive my commissary. Office refused to radio [REDACTED] so I had to call him for a supervisor [REDACTED] [REDACTED] not calling anyone you don't come up here and tell me what to do. Now from my knowledge I know if I request for a supervisor no matter what situation it is [REDACTED] required to call one. They [REDACTED] admitted that [REDACTED] purposely like to say things because [REDACTED] know its upset people should [REDACTED] choose to deny any of these allegation. [REDACTED] was standing right next to me and I heard the whole conversation</p> | | 1/15/2025 16:06 | |
| Commissary | <p>Yet again I have to wait another day to receive my commissary this isn't right I paid for those things its bad enough we order Saturday we get it Tuesday now! I have to wait another 2 days to receive the food I paid for the facility is supposed to ensure that everyone gets their commissary on time. I have planned to eat nothing since Monday because I know that Tuesday I get the food and then I am starving because I didn't receive the food I paid for on the scheduled date</p> | | 1/15/2025 17:54 | |
| Other | <p>I haven't received a haircut from the Barbershop for about 3 months now last time I had a haircut was in September y'all can check the log book</p> | | 1/16/2025 16:16 | |
| Facility Staff | <p>Bravo dorm houses 20 detainees and has just 3 tablets. One of the 3 tablets hasn't been working since more than a month and has been having issues with the dorm officials and they have put a work request but no work has been taken. Just two tablets aren't enough for 20 detainees. Tablets are the only good thing we have and if they won't work then our stress would increase. The tablets guy needs to see and fix the issue. Please the starve us to death due to shortage of tablets since everyone needs to use. Kindly look into this matter and get it resolved because its causing great inconvenience to all Bravo dorm inmates.</p> | <p>Shortage of tablets due to one tablet not working in Bravo Dorm</p> | <p>Get the tablet repaired as early as possible so the detainees don't have to worry about using tablets and talking to their loved ones on time</p> | 1/18/2025 21:56 |
| Sanitation | <p>Los oficiales del centro no me quieren sacar haber al medico necesario² que por favor me hagan una plaza de las caderas para abajo y me vean mi mied-²bus porque precinto que me golpean cuando duermo</p> | <p>Muy buena tarde me dirijo por este medio porque tengo un problema con el medico necesito que me revisen la cadera de mi cadera por favor creeo que me golpean cuando duermo y me sacan de la celda por favor me dejen un dolor en la otra cadera que es como si me fuera golpeado al quien necesita tambien que me hagan una plaza de la cadera para abajo porque yo estoy en la celda y necesito hablar con un supervisor</p> | <p>Agency [REDACTED]</p> | 1/16/2025 17:56 |
| Facility Staff | <p>Estoy tranquilo y ellos quieren venir agritarme en el cuarto [REDACTED] que yo puse una queja a nivel de ellos por abuso de palabra y de autoridad porque ellos me quieren castigar en una celda que no puedo estar por que no escuchan a los oficiales que me pegan a mi bus a mandar para Venezuela iniciales expone que respondan mi msj porque yo en la celda [REDACTED] estoy tranquilo y pude ver por la cámara que yo me se compadece que yo llegue a un imigrante y yo no se que yo me se compadece a un imigrante que no es en regla no estoy ilegal en este país y mis Cana tengo mi audiencia que es el 16 por eso ellos me estan molestando hoy espero² respuesta porfavor</p> | <p>Numero de agencia [REDACTED] Commissar [REDACTED] vierto</p> | <p>Importante</p> | 1/15/2025 9:57 |
| Facility Staff | | <p>This is the second day in a row [REDACTED] has come to alpha form with an intimidation tactic. My TV is broken so I had it in my hand because I needed to get it from my bed. [REDACTED] made it his business to tell me to put it on but the other detainees right behind me made a point of it and [REDACTED] didn't mention anything to the officer. Yesterday [REDACTED] was speaking with another [REDACTED] and told [REDACTED] don't let [REDACTED] get to close. I was behind the yellow line. I'm not going to tolerate [REDACTED]</p> | <p>Don't want anything to do with this rude officer please</p> | 1/13/2025 20:04 |
| Facility Staff | | <p>Today my meal potatos had lumps of potato powder in it. As soon as I opened the tray to check my meal it was clearly visible. I showed the officer and I checked every other person meal and no powder was in theirs so I suggested that [REDACTED] exchanged it for an extra tray that was already there. [REDACTED] decided to be extra annoying every 5 minutes a supervisor would come and tell [REDACTED] don't let [REDACTED] get to close. I explained the issue and the same extra tray that I asked the officer to exchange [REDACTED] told [REDACTED] to give the only worrying thing [REDACTED] said that there was no powder present in the powder. I'm sorry that the meal was dumped in the garbage or I would have asked for it to be tested. I personally thought it was dry mash potato powder but now my mind is racing I don't know what to think. It seems that everyday its something. I give up I rather just starve this is not right^{REQUESTED ACTION}</p> | <p>After tray is photographed in kitchen its not touched again</p> | 1/6/2025 18:37 |

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|------------------------------|--|---|---|-----------------|
| Commissary | Por favor necesita 3 pares de calcetines 3 calcetines al un per de capotes [REDACTED] en su [REDACTED] (tercero) | [REDACTED] | Gracias | 1/11/2025 9:26 |
| Other | | | | 1/8/2025 14:06 |
| Safety/Security | This needs to be handled professionally. | I've been patient in this resolution process now I need a copy of the protocol. I want to know why there is none, I know for a fact [REDACTED] had a camera phone provided by core civic for incidents like this, I want to know what the protocol is to deal with these incidents. I was told that the supplier had to throw out over 200 apples because of my complaint. Can I also have the incident log and the evidence bag it was placed. Was the supplier contacted? A copy of all correspondence. | I've been patient in this resolution process now I need a copy of the protocol. I want to know why there is none, I know for a fact [REDACTED] had a camera phone provided by core civic for incidents like this, I want to know what the protocol is to deal with these incidents. I was told that the supplier had to throw out over 200 apples because of my complaint. Can I also have the incident log and the evidence bag it was placed. Was the supplier contacted? A copy of all correspondence. | 12/19/2024 7:09 |
| Violations of Fed/State Reg. | Comunicado ndome desde las 9 de la mañana porque la comisaría la 130 de la tarde fecha 7 de enero y no me dieron la respuesta que me dieron a un oficial que no habla español. Me dice que la comisaría por quién cerca yo no quería perder mi corte si la pérdida es por culpa de los oficiales de correos que no me trasladaron a mi corte de migración en que yo no debería de estar aquí. porque yo tengo mis papeles en regla y estoy legal aquí. en este caso no podria impugnar con mi caso porque dentro que me acusa de violar mis derechos como persona como detenido | Hoy 7 de enero numero [REDACTED] | Porta recien repuesta no soy un criminal si tampoco soy un peligro para estado unido | 1/7/2025 11:54 |
| Commissary | | | | 1/7/2025 18:47 |
| Visitation | E sido víctima de robo en varias ocasiones pero ay fue demolido sstar una bebe de 5 meses que trae mi esposa a Ber mi padre mi esposo se a dañado un poco le e puesto un vendaje y me dijeron que no necesitaba de esto por que mi hijo de 3 meses le puso un vendaje a mi hijo por que Ella tiene un gomito no se lo podia quitar aca no pone calificación y netezza con mi bebe de 5 meses es demasiado pueden asesina Ami lo que ellos sientan pero no mi bebe [REDACTED] . Necesito saber esto por favor de la oficina de inmigración. Ami lo que se ha tratado mal por que se me extra que los errores son a estas personas menos mi hija b6 yo tengo 22 años en este país 19 años para mis impuestos e sido víctima de robo LA policía por ser inmigrante me iso caso e solo se me paga el impuesto de 1000 pesos y aca no se me roba mas robarme a los juro lo no se que [REDACTED] echo mis padres que illo pago ESE pero que me siento muy triste yo si agradecido de la ayuda que me dijeron a mi hija [REDACTED] mi proyecto de futuro igual no aprecio a solo alquiler se me mal alquilar el aro que me pasa no lo se por que perdona una ber mas pero necesito alquiler mi familia le el problema [REDACTED] en resion solo por el rostro de mi bebe. Yo necesito ser mi familia gracia [REDACTED] les bendigo dia a dia juntos [REDACTED] familias;[...] | | 1/5/2025 16:22 | |
| Trust Account | | | | 1/7/2025 11:20 |
| Trust Account | | | | 1/6/2025 11:35 |
| Facility Staff | Check the pictures for the 27th of December and see the missing fruit I've got signed witness statement just like your pictures I cover my back | | Detainee Grievance Level: 3 Status: Opened Date: 12/27/2024 Pictures there were no items missing from your tray 12/20/2024. All your trays are completed by dietitian requirements. Check the pictures on the 27th of December. I keep great notes. I'm not the average person. | 1/6/2025 22:54 |
| Facility Staff | Hoy domingo 5 de enero me cambiaron 3 veces de cuarto ya que de los custodios se me llevan con uno y me quieren pagar a la gente de ellos y con todo y eso los custodios no hacen nada despues de me cambian de cuarto [REDACTED] se me estan cambiando de cuarto [REDACTED] se me cambia en este cuarto de porrista de amigas [REDACTED] porque las amigas trabajadoras de aquella- me causan problemas de cuarto para que me busquen problemas y tengo problemas con los mismo reos y yo no quiero tener problema con nadie yo solo quiero esperar mi corte y saber que pasa con el caso [REDACTED] impugnar con mi caso yo tengo mis papeles al dia no estoy legal estoy legal entonces necesito hablar con abogados para dejarle saber mi situación porque en el cuarto [REDACTED] estoy bien sin peligro porto suero butin y desparasitico | | 1/5/2025 20:16 | |
| Commissary | | | | 1/5/2025 13:43 |
| Commissary | | | | 1/5/2025 13:31 |

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| Housing | I want to inform your good office about the incident happened yesterday, January 4, at around 7:30pm in our dormitory. I got mad at me when I took [redacted] place from taking a shower. [redacted] was next in line to take a shower but since [redacted] was on the phone, I asked [redacted] if I can take a shower since I'm not in [redacted] but [redacted] said no. After that, I asked [redacted] that I'm going to take a shower since [redacted] was still on the phone and the line for the shower was long. After I showered, I went to my bed and [redacted] asked me madly if I could wait for [redacted] to finish. I said that there was no [redacted] and no one was using the shower and I couldn't waste time. I want to report this incident because [redacted] has been telling other inmates and officer on duty wrong information about what happened. I don't want to [redacted] my report in your good office. I have been following rules and respecting your staff since I came here. I respect the officers on duty by following their rules like time management P.M. since [redacted] came here, she's been telling me and other inmates about the US government and people [redacted] even counted them. [redacted] said that [redacted] feels unsafe because you put [redacted] together with the criminals. [redacted] proudly said that [redacted] want to be deported but you still keeping here in very bad facility. I have been meeting it to myself here in very bad facility. [redacted] told me but now I think I have to tell you [redacted] | | 1/3/2015 10:26 |
| Other | I have had the tablet up in the morning and I gave it back after an hour office revenue took it back and I asked [redacted] to put me back on the [redacted] and later on after a hour [redacted] told me I had to wait for people that came after me to get the tablet again which is not fair because whoever put their name first get the tablet first [redacted] has a special vendetta against me | | 1/4/2015 13:11 |
| Food Service | No informal resolution needed we need to keep this professional Again food screwed up in the morning sent me cereal with 2 pancakes no syrup and 2 bottles of water. I guess I must use the water to eat the cereal. Then they sent me bread and beans but no rice. I guess that they sent me rice. Stake thing with white rice then they bought a new tray even that they screwed up. They bought vegetarian tray both with white rice. I just can't be bothered with these incompetent people. Not a day goes by without a fuck up | Stop sending food for me from these idiots. Get them trained or replaced | 12/18/2014 22:35 |
| Facility Staff | Seems like my allergies are been taken as a joke. This can't continue to happen. The blatant disregard for my health. The kitchen staff is incapable of following simple diet needs. I can't be an accident. To be an accident these will be treated as attention of life. Then we as your customer you get paid for your job but these incompetent people don't care about myself or someone else their life. I'm not comfortable placing my life in the hands of these incompetent people. | My meal s be provided by a different provider. The kitchen staff be trained in basic nutrition. Taught the simple food groups. Taught cross contamination. I don't want to be told that I'm already sick and you can do much. Its my life at risk. Baking to the kitchen staff clearly is not the solution. I want action taken to change the staff. | 12/14/2014 20:15 |
| Food Service | No informal resolution needed this needs to be dealt with at the highest level How stupid can anyone be again I'm not vegetarian. They sent me vegetarian dish when clearly the dish provided today has no dairy and fish. I'm tired of this bullshit. how can staff be so incompetent. complaining makes absolutely no difference. You are told to eat it and that's it. I don't send me anything else from this kitchen. They are incompetent in dealing with special diets | No food from these idiots | 12/21/2014 17:19 |
| Reprisal Using Resolution Process | Today even with the wardens careful watch they didn't sent fruit for dinner. They provided with left over sour grapefruit in a bowl. I don't care if you are not hungry already. I see no evidence they can be trying my best here but I really don't want any food from this kitchen. I don't know what they are capable of doing. | Today even with the wardens careful watch they didn't sent fruit for dinner. They provided with left over sour grapefruit in a bowl. I don't care if you are not hungry already. I see no evidence they can be trying my best here but I really don't want any food from this kitchen. I don't know what they are capable of doing. | 12/27/2014 17:19 |
| Access to Legal Materials | La fecha del incidente fue el dia 17 de diciembre hora entre las 3 y 4 de la tarde. También tienen el carnet de mi novia y mí, quiero saber como puedo recuperar mis cosas el carnet tiene todo al día en ningún momento encontraron nada en él, yo hice un rito ese día por eso fue el mal entendido | Recuperar mis cosas personales | 12/31/2014 8:14 |
| Reprisal Using Resolution Process | How stupid can anyone be again I'm not vegetarian. They sent me vegetarian dish when clearly the dish provided today has no dairy and fish. I'm tired of this bullshit. how can staff be so incompetent. complaining makes absolutely no difference. You are told to eat it and that's it. I don't send me anything else from this kitchen. They are incompetent in dealing with special diets | On hunger strike fuck them and their incompetence | 12/21/2014 17:24 |
| Other | We requested for a person that was disturbing the peace. In our dorm to be removed in shifts, we were 25 people but instead the assistant warden desired to remove 6 people and we asked [redacted] if it was a special case and [redacted] said yes. We feel like we're being discriminated instead of moving one person [redacted] moved 6. The same situation happened before and the reason the person was moved so why is it any different now why are they treating this person like he's a priority over us and it's so then let us know | Feel like there could've been a better solution to the problem. [redacted] made us feel like the system only work for certain people in this facility. | 12/28/2014 23:17 |

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|------------------------------|--|--|--|------------------|
| Safety/Security | | <p>how stupid can anyone be - again I'm not vegeterian. They sent me vegeterian dish when clearly the dish provided today has no dairy and fish. I'm tired of this bullshit, how can staff be so incompetent , complaining makes absolutely no difference. You are told to eat it and that's it. I don't send me anything else from this kitchen. They are incompetent in dealing with special diets</p> | Please don't provide me with anything from this kitchen | 12/21/2024 17:21 |
| Safety/Security | | <p>Today at dinner some incompetent jackass sent me vegetarian tray. Which I sent back as they sent it. Captain [REDACTED] was called in and told that [REDACTED] had to take pictures of the tray before he sent it back. I had to eat that no problem I brought this up in a grievance early this week and was told they will speak to kitchen, yet again another fuck up. As promised captain [REDACTED] went to the kitchen as a cook off and going to the kitchen and was told by the big [REDACTED] cook to give me a vegeterian tray because it says on my dietary sheet that I don't eat meat. I showed [REDACTED] a copy of the sheet that was in the box with cards nothing on the sheet and so clearly they have a different sheet and they are just incompetent either way I'm the one suffering and continue to suffer because of incompetence. Now I'm looking after myself and myself Only I don't want anything else from this kitchen. I will not eat it and it will be sent back as the tray today was</p> | Nothing from this kitchen | 12/21/2024 18:37 |
| Food Service | | <p>Today at dinner some incompetent jackass sent me vegetarian tray. Which I sent back as they sent it. Captain [REDACTED] was called in and told that [REDACTED] had to take pictures of the tray before he sent it back. I had to eat that no problem I brought this up in a grievance early this week and was told they will speak to kitchen, yet again another fuck up. As promised captain [REDACTED] went to the kitchen as a cook off and going to the kitchen and was told by the big [REDACTED] cook to give me a vegeterian tray because it says on my dietary sheet that I don't eat meat. I showed [REDACTED] a copy of the sheet that was in the box with cards nothing on the sheet and so clearly they have a different sheet or they are just incompetent either way I'm the one suffering and continue to suffer because of incompetence. Now I'm looking after myself and myself Only I don't want anything else from this kitchen. I will not eat it and it will be sent back as the tray today was</p> | Today at dinner some incompetent jackass sent me vegetarian tray. Which I sent back as they sent it. Captain [REDACTED] was called in and told that [REDACTED] had to take pictures of the tray before he sent it back. I had to eat that no problem I brought this up in a grievance early this week and was told they will speak to kitchen, yet again another fuck up. As promised captain [REDACTED] went to the kitchen as a cook off and going to the kitchen and was told by the big [REDACTED] cook to give me a vegeterian tray because it says on my dietary sheet that I don't eat meat. I showed [REDACTED] a copy of the sheet that was in the box with cards nothing on the sheet and so clearly they have a different sheet or they are just incompetent either way I'm the one suffering and continue to suffer because of incompetence. Now I'm looking after myself and myself Only I don't want anything else from this kitchen. I will not eat it and it will be sent back as the tray today was | 12/21/2024 18:35 |
| Mail | Plese bring mail | | Please check for my mail I need it urgently for the courts | 12/16/2024 12:00 |
| Safety/Security | | <p>Por favor me coloquei sossinho num dormitório, nãõ tenho paç aqüi, eu [REDACTED] passei por 3 dormitórios e nenhuma OS prezou meus direitos, nãõ me deu a chance de falar com os outros, só deitou e dormiu, nãõ respeitou nenhuma eu por exemplo nãõ tenho paço tento dormir cedo para ir trabalhar as 5 da manhã nãõ tem possibilidade disso os insultos e falta de respeito nãõ cessa as 3 am e devo dizer que a direção só deixa os outros dormir quando meus amigos estao num paço que querem nãõ dormir amigos aqui. nãõ sou comum por favor me pocha numa celi solo por favor poder ser na frente da academia se a paç mental é fundamental quero restaurar minha saude mental me tire daqui pelo amor de Deus saes que acomodaçõ o pior</p> | Mudançã de dormitório por favor um dormitório solo . | 12/13/2024 14:34 |
| Mail | | My mail is in facility and I need to give it to me and the court urgently. | Please ensure that you provide my mail | 12/16/2024 14:50 |
| Mail | You never answer did you get my mail | My mail arrived at facility but I still haven't received its copy yet. | My mail arrived at facility but I still haven't received its copy yet. | 12/17/2024 14:51 |
| Commissary | | <p>Da-s 03 de dezembro o funcionario que veio trazer o comissariado pegou chorizo que estava na saoco do preso numero 12 do dormitorio eco e segurou ele em paç chavendo o mesmo para pegar sangue que ele fosse erguido, o mesmo funcionario que veio trazer o preso sabemos que esse ato demonstra o que fez por um preso que faz isso nãõ é normal mas prima e castigo e o que acontece se for um oficial/funcionario que entrou mentido dentro na academia e ele fizer o mesmo, a fatia de vegetais que observamos nuns presos, a [REDACTED] que isso foi um ato sexual tipo igual um [REDACTED] sexual masculino ento essa feio e justiça traduz no portugues</p> | | 12/4/2024 18:21 |
| Violations of Fed/State Reg. | [REDACTED] | <p>Preciso relatar ao chefe principal porque fiz several reportes e nado aconteceu estando tentando abafar o caso [REDACTED] algo gravissimo translato portugues</p> | Big boss | 12/6/2024 13:56 |
| Facility Staff | The day you voiced complaints about your fires and food quality you were given a new tray. There was no water in your sink and per medical you did not have to go to the hospital to get your stomach pumped. Your reply calling me a liar | <p>I have over 5 witness including captain [REDACTED] who saw the worms</p> | <p>My lawyer and consular be involved in anything else to do with this matter</p> | 12/1/2024 21:28 |

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| Food Service | Need formal resolution. | how is it even remotely possible that the assistant warden has so much spare time or [REDACTED] hand to be watching cameras to see if I have milk in my hand. The establishment or shit show [REDACTED] is running in failing... they can't even put a simple meal together. The dummies say hard boiled eggs are dairy and these are the idiots that are preparing meals for people with allergies. | The staff in kitchen be banned from food preparation until they can distinguish which groups food is placed before they kill someone | 12/8/2024 8:22 |
| Commissary | Transfer my 100 from phone to commissary. | My dad tried to put 100 dollars on my commissary the stupid thing put it on my phone. I need it transferred back immediately. | Transfer my money to commissary | 12/8/2024 1:02 |
| Laundry | | Outra vez que duas camisas novas e me mandaram duas [REDACTED] eta com mancha marrom que nao estava e roubaram as duas camisas novas e me mandaram duas camisas velhas com mancha marrom em baixo do braco isso é contagioso a meu paço essa doença se chama submersa queria minhas camisetas minhas toalhas que queria isso que me mandaram me roubaram. | | 12/4/2024 18:31 |
| Food Service | I want all correspondence of this matter be copied and handed to my lawyer and to homeland security. | I ate Worms that were in apple. Now who ever is responding is going to be [REDACTED] 2, of your staff including captain and over 6 detainees that this never happened. I don't need any response from you because I need my lawyer involved from now on | That all correspondence be copied to homeland security and my lawyer including captain and over 6 detainees that this never happened. I don't need any response from you because I need my lawyer involved from now on | 12/22/2024 11:01 |
| Facility Staff | | [Medical staff told: Me I was a criminal and needed to be put in chairs] | I don't want any further contact. With het | 11/28/2024 13:53 |
| Reprisal Using Resolution Process | Resesito pedir mi deportacion plus | Resesito pedir con ice y pedir mi deportacion | | 12/3/2024 8:42 |
| Violations of Fed/State Reg. | [REDACTED] | Resesito de favor me ayuden con mi deportacion immedata ya que no deseo seguir pelando mas en caso | | 12/2/2024 19:28 |
| Violations of Fed/State Reg. | I need the medical help | I have serious medical problem on my body, it is annoying me every day. I can not stand the pain and the dizzy that the illness is harassing me each day. I told the medical stuff the problem is not mental, it is physical. I need medical help. I have chance to talk to them, they ask How you help me check the system and give an answer but they never came back to give me an answer, nobody treat me seriously. I will die soon because I can't get any medical treatment. I will kill myself because I can't stand the pain and dizzy on my body | I need medical help | 12/3/2024 11:32 |
| Safety/Security | | Sou brasileiro eles nao gostam de mim nao sei porquê EU nao fui deles mas nemhum para ninguem | 11/08/2015 quero que me bater oedor q gavas pessoas | 11/9/2024 9:45 |
| Facility Staff | | | I get somebody come to visit me [REDACTED] say to me they denied my visit I would like to know why thank you | 11/25/2024 16:22 |
| Commissary | | Buenos dias es oficial el dia de sábado 23 de Noviembre hace dos recargas para llamas por teléfono de \$20 el paquete c/u y \$20 me acreditaron una hora el reclamo el lunes y hasta ahora nadie responde | Por favor resesito que me acrediten los \$20 el paquetes que me hacen falta!! | 11/27/2024 8:00 |
| Violations of Fed/State Reg. | Food checked | After a long fight to get proper meal today I was sent three like metal rods they were that hard the apple I was sent yesterday bit it had live worms in it. I want to go to hospital to get my stomach pumped in case I swallowed some live worms | All apples thrown out | 11/20/2024 16:34 |
| Visitation | | To whom it may concern, I hope this message finds you well. On Tuesday the 20th of November me [REDACTED] brother and I were told by the visitation officer that ICE has allowed us to meet each other on every Tuesday and Thursday. I am today [REDACTED] and no one called or for the visit. I asked a visitation officer to check and they simply said that the visitation officer is saying to stand by. I asked the supervisor as well and [REDACTED] asked me to file a grievance and said there is [REDACTED] but [REDACTED] can not be literally because there is [REDACTED] but [REDACTED] put us in the same room but no one listened to us, now at least let us meet on the designated days that ICE told the visitation officer. We have been told that the facility allows family members detained here to meet each other. I humbly request you to please look into my request and let me meet each other on every Tuesday and Thursday. | Allow me to meet my [REDACTED] brother every Tuesday and Thursday in the visitation room | 11/21/2024 18:17 |
| Trust Account | | | | 11/21/2024 12:49 |
| Trust Account | | | | 11/23/2024 11:54 |

| Housing | | Its too hot in dorm please turn on ac its hard to sleep at night | Turn on ac | 11/6/2024 13:42 |
|-----------------------------|--|--|--|------------------|
| Housing | Dear Sir/Mam. Yesterday my [REDACTED] and I were put in different dorms because I had a low tested argument with a fellow detainee and the dorm officer called for backup and they escorted me outside and put me in their [REDACTED] room. I was asked to go to the office to case [REDACTED] and if I do then take me along. The officer found that as a disruption to his course of action. We apologized and explained his action. Detainees in the dorms are not allowed to be there for [REDACTED] room, but one of them [REDACTED] is being shifted or whatever but nothing happens to them. I don't want anything against anyone I just want to be with my [REDACTED] brother who is residing in B dorm currently and I'm in D dorm. We are awaiting deportation and will be deported any day this November. We are educated people with college degrees. [REDACTED] we have always respected officers and all our rights. I have the same about us. I am emotionally unwell without my brother and couldn't even sleep last night. We have never been separated in life. Please accept my plead and grant this request. Please I'll be indebted for ever. I humbly await your swift response. Regards. [REDACTED] | I have mentioned it above, I want to live together with my [REDACTED] in same dorm | As I mentioned please just put me with my [REDACTED] brother. Please, there will be no complaints against us I promise | 11/6/2024 10:20 |
| Intake | Buenos dñs as oficial el sñ/bado pedí: comisariado v no me legó nada !!!QuéAdé paxAd con mi pedido?????Pta me descontaron el dinero | | Solicita ¹³ una solució ¹⁴ n al problema ya que me descontaron el dinero y nadie me da respuesta!!! | 11/6/2024 8:45 |
| Other | To whom it may concern, Hope this message finds you well. I am writing to humbly request you to please move my brother from Delta to Bravo. I was born in Dorm B with my [REDACTED] last night both of our dorms were moved. I was moved from Fox to Bravo and my brother was moved from Fox to Delta. The only reason was that my brother asked the officer around 6:30 pm for a tablet and the officer told him that he get himself. So [REDACTED] saw a tablet on his [REDACTED] just took it and he [REDACTED] using it. A few minutes later my brother [REDACTED] came back and asked for the tablet and [REDACTED] gave it back to [REDACTED]. Then [REDACTED] said that never touch my stuff without permission again and my brother asked that the officer asked him to give the tablet back to [REDACTED] and then [REDACTED] just started arguing verbally and the officer called the supervisor. 5-6 people came and asked my brother to come with them and I just out of a very natural human reaction I stood up and politely asked the officer that where are you taking [REDACTED] and that where ever you are taking [REDACTED] just take me with [REDACTED]. And they just made an issue out of it and decided to move both of us to separate dorms. You can see the camera footage you can see it is extremely unfair to separate [REDACTED] brothers from each other. We need each other for mental and Moral support. We share commissary and stay connected with our family from my brother's gtl | | Please move my [REDACTED] brother from Delta to Bravo with me. I can't spend this terrible time of my life without him. I need him. I have been here and always been very respectful to all officers and are educated people just want to spend their rest of the time here together. We are getting deported in the next 10-12 days. Please don't make our already miserable lives more miserable. Please move my brother with me | 11/6/2024 14:46 |
| Housing | | | Please turn it back to cold we have blankets because its hot in the dorm. I sleep upstairs and I feel like I'm suffocating at night. Please this is unbearable all the detainees agree with me. | 11/1/2024 14:39 |
| Housing | | This dorm feels like 100 degrees we are force to wear the completed uniform in this sweatshop environment this is tortured | Please turn ac on its been hot for more than 2 weeks its bad | 11/1/2024 14:56 |
| Housing | | | Please do something about the heat its unbearable! We can't sleep we feel sticky and you make us wear a shirt underneath and the uniform I feel like im going faint from this heat | 11/1/2024 14:44 |
| Housing | If do not want to be replace any where out of Elizabeth so I humbly request to stay here | | | 11/1/2024 13:05 |
| Other | Me propidead | Mire que yo lo firme pero mi teléfono celular estalla muy bien | Es por eso que yo pedí que me dejaran ver por que temia que los nñmeros estaban muy bien x favor ayudensem con mi propidead | 10/31/2024 19:47 |
| Other | Es sobre mi propidead | Al entrar aki yo mi celular lo entregue en perfectas condiciones y ASE un tiempo aki lo vi esta todo roto no pueden ver ni lo nñmeros q neserito ayudadmen | Por favor ayer me puden comprender es tanto los nñmeros de trabajos y no puedo verlos por que la pantalla esta toda rota x favor | 10/30/2024 12:13 |
| Violations of Fed/State Reg | A call to the Dominican republic embassy. And I need someone from ice to let me know why I'm being held in here illegally because I was supposed to be here for no more than 72 hrs not 2 weeks or more please have someone talk to me on the matter. Please and thank you. | | Embassy cell | 10/29/2024 11:26 |
| Access to Legal Materials | | I have no pillow and container since I was detained on October 8, 2024. | Pillow and container for clothes and documents. | 10/18/2024 14:29 |

| | | | | |
|---------------------------------|--|---|--|------------------|
| Other | 1 | I got beaten up by [redacted] police [redacted] went to an [redacted] with [redacted] the officer left and I layed down [redacted] came to my bed and hit me with a closed fist in the head I immediately got up and asked what was wrong with [redacted] and [redacted] started cursing at me so the situation didn't go any further I decided to ignore it even the officer told [redacted] to stop [redacted] continued to [redacted] went back to sleep but [redacted] threatened to fight me etc | Look into this please I've learned from the past not to take action into my own hands so I've let y'all handle thank you | 10/13/2024 15:27 |
| Access to Legal Materials | | | Pillow and blanket | 10/20/2024 20:36 |
| Commissary | | | Make my money available for purchase | 10/19/2024 7:34 |
| Commissary | | | | 10/18/2024 14:40 |
| Safety/Security | Siento mucha inseguridad y miedo: hay mucha in profesionalidad por parte de los encargados de vigilancia | Day Testimony 24 agosto del 2024 por LA modelo Elizabeth | Por favor Ayudannme tengo mucho miedo | 8/20/2024 17:08 |
| Recreation | | | | 8/7/2024 12:48 |
| Facility Staff | 1 (A) 2(B)(5) | Jueves por medio dia | Necesito por favor que se respeten mis derechos como humano que se respete mi religión | 8/20/2024 16:50 |
| Safety/Security | Solicito eliminar registros de contactos , ya que los agregan directamente a mi cuenta, creo que eso no es correcto ni profesional | Los invito hacer un poco mas balanceados tanto con sus nuevas a igual que los atrevimientos que se tomen. No se respetan mis derechos | Poder darle un buen manejo a la informacion que tengo en la tabletas al igual que todos | 8/17/2024 17:06 |
| Violations of Fed/State Reg. | Que si entra en una norma es para darles cumplimiento te ha preguntado que pasa con tu manual racional del detenido? | El detenido [redacted] sigue silenciosos en su casa y sus residuos van al piso lo cual atura animales ya he informado y no hay solucion | Desciendo sus reglamento esto es indebidamente que su espacio mantiene sucio, anexo que el trabaja en la cocina que puedes pensar? | 8/17/2024 16:58 |
| Facility Staff | No me acuerda llamando al medico ni mida el medico si me esta viendo la comida de dieta para la diabetes | Las pastillas no me estan llamando para la diabetes | La dieta de mi comida no me esta guardas para las pastillas gracias | 8/11/2024 10:51 |
| Denied Access to Informal Res. | Alguno o alguno otro prisionero que entienda o que eu diga, falso o entiendo senciente portugues o que | Ate o momento no conseguia: faltar con su familia, queria que alguien possa tirar minhas d'vidas quando acaba, como ligar para minha familia, etc. | | 7/29/2024 16:28 |
| Food Service | | | | 7/28/2024 13:37 |
| Denied Access to Informal Res. | Not sure what it is required here | I know the procedure for grievances but only one has been followed up and closed with me. Why are these not being followed up? | Someone to come and see me and explain what all of my requests, question and grievances have been ignored. | 7/28/2024 8:26 |
| Other | Mi esta agrediendo y me esta acusando de ladrao | Agresor esta en el camion [redacted] Fecha 7/10/24 | | 7/10/2024 13:05 |
| Other | No funciona los sistemas | | Verificaci&on | 7/10/2024 12:40 |
| Facility Staff | That [redacted] not put in this dorm | I have an issue with officer [redacted] I believe [redacted] was being very confrontational. I ask him To Change the Channel [redacted] refused to, saying he goes at them [redacted] [redacted] I believe here the officer [redacted] is not to be in the day room to come to the TV. Every time we ask to change the Channel [redacted] give attitude [redacted] was watching the TV and the TV is for detainees [redacted] had both TV on Spanish [redacted] was being very unfair and has a bad attitude [redacted] made me really uncomfortable and made me not want to [redacted] for anything. | | 9/14/2024 16:01 |
| Commissary | Wu shi yi ming 8 [redacted] han bingfu | | | 7/3/2024 18:58 |
| Access to Legal Materials | | | | 9/29/2024 11:34 |
| Other | Labor de hoy en la mañana no quiso llamar a un en espãasol para explicar problema | La oficial de hoy de mañana habla ingles no entiendãt que no me insultan y llamo a supervisor y el pensãt que yo era problema | Solicito hablar con la juega [redacted] y el administrador de casas de OIDD Of. del defensor del detenido . | 6/25/2024 15:43 |
| Visitation | | | | 6/27/2024 13:29 |
| Phone Call | | | | 6/27/2024 13:24 |
| Visitation | | | | 6/25/2024 12:57 |
| Access to Legal Materials | | | | 6/29/2024 11:37 |
| Other | Estaba calentando la comida en el micro y vi uno seãor ofic [redacted] se llevo el micro | El 20 de junio a las 23:30 en la noche pase que un seãor oficial [redacted] donde me encuentro privado de mi libertad me llevo el micro | Paso que se llevo y como me kede esperando haber si lo traen a vuelta el seãor oficial m agrediaãt q | 6/14/2024 19:00 |
| Other | Agression por parte de oficial dentro de la celda / donde me encuentro privado de mi libertad | FãA: Un de testigos todos mis compa´nos de celda y incluso hay una camara de seguridad | Algunos mis derechos satis este tipo de abusos y violencia sabiendo que encuentro indefenso y privado de mi libertad por favor | 6/21/2024 8:13 |
| Other | | | | 9/13/2024 19:05 |
| Other | At 8/18/24 female Lt entered men populated pod-N at 12:55pm and didn't announce "female" [redacted] violated prea law 115.15d | At 8/18/24 female Lt entered men populated pod-N at 12:55pm and didn't announce "female" [redacted] violated prea law 115.15d | At 8/18/24 female Lt entered men populated pod-N at 12:55pm and didn't announce "female" [redacted] violated prea law 115.15d | 8/18/2024 13:05 |
| Safety/Security | At 8/18/24 female Lt entered men populated pod-N at 12:55pm and didn't announce "female" [redacted] violated prea law 115.15d | At 8/18/24 female Lt entered men populated pod-N at 12:55pm and didn't announce "female" [redacted] violated prea law 115.15d | At 8/18/24 female Lt entered men populated pod-N at 12:55pm and didn't announce "female" [redacted] violated prea law 115.15d | 8/18/2024 13:05 |
| Violations of Fed/State Reg. | At 8/18/24 female Lt entered men populated pod-N at 12:55pm and didn't announce "female" [redacted] violated prea law 115.15d | At 8/18/24 female Lt entered men populated pod-N at 12:55pm and didn't announce "female" [redacted] violated prea law 115.15d | At 8/18/24 female Lt entered men populated pod-N at 12:55pm and didn't announce "female" [redacted] violated prea law 115.15d | 8/18/2024 13:04 |
| Facility Staff | At 8/18/24 female Lt entered men populated pod-N at 12:55pm and didn't announce "female" [redacted] violated prea law 115.15d | At 8/18/24 female Lt entered men populated pod-N at 12:55pm and didn't announce "female" [redacted] violated prea law 115.15d | At 8/18/24 female Lt entered men populated pod-N at 12:55pm and didn't announce "female" [redacted] violated prea law 115.15d | 8/18/2024 13:04 |
| Housing | Chinese c/o in pod N refusing to give us a pen to write therefore we can not fill any of the forms and submit as of 8/18/04 | Chinese c/o in pod N refusing to give us a pen to write therefore we can not fill any of the forms and submit as of 8/18/04 | Chinese c/o in pod N refusing to give us a pen to write therefore we can not fill any of the forms and submit as of 8/18/04 | 8/18/2024 12:55 |
| Other | Chinese c/o in pod N refusing to give us a pen to write therefore we can not fill any of the forms and submit as of 8/18/04 | Chinese c/o in pod N refusing to give us a pen to write therefore we can not fill any of the forms and submit as of 8/18/04 | Chinese c/o in pod N refusing to give us a pen to write therefore we can not fill any of the forms and submit as of 8/18/04 | 8/18/2024 12:54 |
| Violations of Fed/State Reg. | Chinese c/o in pod N refusing to give us a pen to write therefore we can not fill any of the forms and submit as of 8/18/04 | Chinese c/o in pod N refusing to give us a pen to write therefore we can not fill any of the forms and submit as of 8/18/04 | Chinese c/o in pod N refusing to give us a pen to write therefore we can not fill any of the forms and submit as of 8/18/04 | 8/18/2024 12:53 |
| Reusal Using Resolution Process | Chinese c/o in pod N refusing to give us a pen to write therefore we can not fill any of the forms and submit as of 8/18/04 | Chinese c/o in pod N refusing to give us a pen to write therefore we can not fill any of the forms and submit as of 8/18/04 | Chinese c/o in pod N refusing to give us a pen to write therefore we can not fill any of the forms and submit as of 8/18/04 | 8/18/2024 12:52 |
| Denied Access to Informal Res. | Chinese c/o in pod N refusing to give us a pen to write therefore we can not fill any of the forms and submit as of 8/18/04 | Chinese c/o in pod N refusing to give us a pen to write therefore we can not fill any of the forms and submit as of 8/18/04 | Chinese c/o in pod N refusing to give us a pen to write therefore we can not fill any of the forms and submit as of 8/18/04 | 8/18/2024 12:51 |

| | | | |
|------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Access to Legal Materials | Chinese c.o in pod N refusing to give us a pen to write therefore we can not fill any of the forms and submit as of 8/18/04 | Chinese c.o in pod N refusing to give us a pen to write therefore we can not fill any of the forms and submit as of 8/18/04 | Chinese c.o in pod N refusing to give us a pen to write therefore we can not fill any of the forms and submit as of 8/18/04 |
| Facility Staff | I can't fill one no pen available | 8/18/2004 | 8/18/2004 |
| Facility Staff | Chinese c.o acting too angry is that normal ? When I ask █ questions like I need fresh clothing etc █ is angry , why is that | Chinese c.o acting too angry is that normal ? When I ask █ questions like I need fresh clothing etc █ is angry , why is that | Chinese c.o acting too angry is that normal ? When I ask █ questions like I need fresh clothing etc █ is angry , why is that |
| Violations of Fed/State Reg. | Chinese c.o tells me it is okay to take shower with other man █ does it all the time █ did it in high school with other men | Chinese c.o tells me it is okay to take shower with other man █ does it all the time █ did it in high school with other men | Chinese c.o tells me it is okay to take shower with other man █ does it all the time █ did it in high school with other men |
| Facility Staff | Chinese c.o tells me it is okay to take shower with other man █ does it all the time █ did it in high school with other men | Chinese c.o tells me it is okay to take shower with other man █ does it all the time █ did it in high school with other men | Chinese c.o might like to take shower with other men but I don't , I was still thinking there has to be a divider in showers |
| Violations of Fed/State Reg. | At the request section of tablet there is suppose to be OIDD section , check facility information/English it says over there | At the request section of tablet there is suppose to be OIDD section , check facility information/English it says over there | At the request section of tablet there is suppose to be OIDD section , check facility information/English it says over there |
| Sanitation | No on cleaning bathrooms showers sinks ? | No on cleaning bathrooms showers sinks ? | No on cleaning bathrooms showers sinks ? Please have someone clean them |
| Other | Food given to us breakfast lunch dinner is too small we start hungry we lick the tray and still get up hungry we need more food | Food given to us breakfast lunch dinner is too small we start hungry we lick the tray and still get up hungry we need more food | Food given to us breakfast lunch dinner is too small we start hungry we lick the tray and still get up hungry we need more food |
| Food Service | Food given to us breakfast lunch dinner is too small we start hungry we lick the tray and still get up hungry we need more food | Food given to us breakfast lunch dinner is too small we start hungry we lick the tray and still get up hungry we need more food | Food given to us breakfast lunch dinner is too small we start hungry we lick the tray and still get up hungry we need more food |
| Housing | Grievances not being picked up from unit's Wall and being answered quickly | Grievances not being picked up from unit's Wall and being answered quickly | Grievances not being picked up from unit's Wall and being answered quickly |
| Violations of Fed/State Reg. | Today nurse entered men populated area without announcing 'female' , didn't prea law 28 CFR 115.15d req █ to announce 'female' | Today nurse entered men populated area without announcing 'female' , didn't prea law 28 CFR 115.15d req █ to announce 'female' | Today nurse entered men populated area without announcing 'female' , didn't prea law 28 CFR 115.15d req █ to announce 'female' |
| Laundry | Can you send me clean 3x underwear and 3x white T-shirt please i am wearing same things since i got here i need clean need clean clothing | Can you send me clean 3x underwear and 3x white T-shirt please i am wearing same things since i got here i need clean need clean clothing | Can you send me clean 3x underwear and 3x white T-shirt please i am wearing same things since i got here i need clean need clean clothing |
| Other | Necesito que el supervisor de ice o cte c-vico entre que mis pertenecias a mi esposa gÃ©nesis torrealba ponce | Necesito que el supervisor de ice o cte c-vico entre que mis pertenecias a mi esposa gÃ©nesis torrealba ponce | Necesito que el supervisor de ice o cte c-vico entre que mis pertenecias a mi esposa gÃ©nesis torrealba ponce |
| | | | 6/22/2024 22:39 |

Post-Hearing Questions for the Record
Submitted to the Honorable Kristi Noem, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Homeland
Security
From Senator Ruben Gallego

"The Department of Homeland Security's Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2026"
May 20, 2025

Question 1

Secretary Noem: FEMA recently terminated active SSP awards, which were appropriated by Congress with bipartisan support. In the meantime, I understand the agency is reviewing outstanding reimbursements for costs incurred prior to termination. I am worried that DHS is not going to reimburse recipients for services they provided in good faith, prior to grant termination, with the expectation that the government would reimburse them. This is a matter of basic fairness, if for no other reason than it sets the precedent for a future Democratic administration to fail cancel funding for a congressionally authorized program it disagrees with.

Can you commit to reimbursing SSP recipients for costs incurred prior to the notice of termination? What is your plan to ensure this happens?

Response: The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will review closeout documents and follow the standard award closeout process set forth in 2 C.F.R. § 200.344. Under this process, FEMA will review programmatic, financial, and other required closeout documentation submitted by each recipient to determine final allowable costs for each grant. FEMA, after making that determination, will make any necessary downward adjustments to federal funding (e.g., deobligation of an unliquidated balance) or make any necessary additional payments (e.g., where the recipient has incurred allowable costs greater than the amount drawn down but below the total approved federal funding). After three written attempts to collect the required documentation, FEMA will send a Closeout Summary Letter to a recipient after completing all closeout actions.

Question 2

I'd like to highlight the significant contributions of Arizona State University's Center for Accelerating Operational Efficiency (CAOE), a DHS Center of Excellence. Their work has directly supported the Department and led to improved efficiency and effectiveness in stated areas of importance to the administration, such as border security and transportation safety. The recent decision to terminate funding for all DHS Centers of Excellence raises concerns about the continuity of vital research and development efforts that align closely with DHS's mission.

Can you speak to what role—if any—DHS envisions for university-based research partnerships going forward, particularly in areas where COEs have already delivered proven results?

Given that CAOE's projects—such as a deep learning system for predicting cross-border migration and AI tools for DHS procurement—directly supported recent Executive Orders on

border security and government efficiency, what framework did DHS use to evaluate whether the work of individual Centers remained aligned with evolving departmental priorities

Recognizing that the university partnerships were established by statute and served as a bridge between DHS and academic innovation, is DHS open to working with Congress and research institutions to reassess how the COE model might evolve to continue serving strategic needs, including cost-effective operational improvements and workforce development?

Response: Secretary Noem recognizes and appreciates the relationships that Arizona State University's Center for Accelerating Operational Efficiency has forged with U.S. Customs and Border Protection, as well as state and local law enforcement agencies. Termination of most Centers of Excellence, including the Center for Accelerating Operational Efficiency, was necessary to align resources to the immediate technological needs of the Components. However, the expertise and capabilities afforded through the Center for Accelerating Operational Efficiency will remain available via utilization of their Basic Ordering Agreement. This task order vehicle is a funding mechanism through which U.S. Department of Homeland Security Components can directly contract with an emeritus Center of Excellence providing streamlined access to leading researchers. Additionally, projects conducted using a Basic Ordering Agreement are directly for the benefit of the government.

Question 3

The Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP) is a critical resource for nonprofit organizations with elevated terror attack risks to ensure they are able to make physical security improvements and invest in preparedness efforts such as training and crisis response planning. As acts of hate against the Jewish community reach record highs, the NSGP is essential in ensuring that Jewish schools, houses of worship, and institutions are safe. In 2024, the number of NSGP applicants was nearly twice the number of grants that the program could fund.

Earlier this year, FY 25 NSGP funding was frozen. How can we ensure that this funding does not become frozen again?

Response: FEMA has implemented a comprehensive application review process that ensures that grants are awarded appropriately. This process is responsible and will be in effect for future Notice of Funding Opportunity.

Question: How can you ensure this critical grant program continues to be administered in the most effective manner possible?

Response: The Nonprofit Security Grant Program is administered through a rigorous, competitive, and detailed review process that includes multiple layers of evaluation. Application materials undergo comprehensive review across three levels: state-level reviews assess eligibility and include scoring and prioritization by State Administrative Agencies; federal reviews ensure a comprehensive review of thousands of pages of application materials to verify completeness, eligibility, and compliance with program requirements; and final funding determinations are made by the Secretary of Homeland Security to ensure that only projects demonstrating effectiveness, allowability, and alignment with priorities receive funding.

Question: Are there plans to expand the program to meet the need, which currently exceeds the amount of funding the programs has received?

Response: The Fiscal Year 2026 President's Budget accurately represents the need for funding the Nonprofit Security Grant Program.

Question: Can you share an update on the percentage of NSGP applicants who received grants in 2024?

Response: In Fiscal Year 2024, FEMA received 7,584 Nonprofit Security Grant Program applications. Of these, 43 percent (a total of 3,288 applications) were approved for funding before available funds were exhausted.

Question: What was the total dollar amount that applicants requested for FY 2025?

Response: The Fiscal Year 2025 Nonprofit Security Grant Program Notice of Funding Opportunity has not yet been released. Therefore, no requests for Fiscal Year 2025 Nonprofit Security Grant Program funding have been submitted to FEMA.

