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Vote Recommendation: AILA Urges Congress to Vote NO on the FY26 Budget Reconciliation Bill

June 8, 2026

The American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) urges Congress **VOTE NO on giving DHS a \$70 billion blank check**, mostly to fund ICE and Border Patrol through FY 2029. **The latest Senate-passed bill provides ICE with an extra \$350 million** for enforcement surges to detain a wider range of people in cities that do not have [cooperation agreements](#) with ICE--a provision that could be used as a weapon against jurisdictions not aligned with the Administration.

The bill fails to include urgently needed reforms to stop these agencies' unlawful, unconstitutional practices that endanger American communities. Giving them multiple years of additional funding is unnecessary--they already received \$170 billion in the 2025 OBBBA of which \$100 billion remains unspent. Instead, taxpayer funds should be spent to help American families.

ICE agents continue to assault and detain U.S. citizens and to violate court orders.

- On May 19, ICE [disobeyed a federal court order](#) that prohibited ICE from detaining people at immigration court by detaining a man at a court protected under the order.
- On May 20, ICE agents [arrested a U.S. citizen](#) born in Colorado accusing her of presenting forged identification documents. ICE said they would deport her even after releasing her.
- On May 25, [Senator Andy Kim was pepper sprayed by ICE agents](#) while attempting to deescalate protests in front of Delaney Hall in New Jersey.
- Since 2025: At least [50 people have died in ICE custody](#)--most recently on [June 4, a man from Republic of Georgia died](#) in a Louisiana facility. Federal agents have [killed 28 people](#), including 4 U.S. citizens. ICE has also wrongfully detained [more than 170 U.S. citizens](#).

Vote NO on amendments that scapegoat and unfairly target immigrants but will not, in fact, improve public safety or the lives of Americans. If the bill's proponents are serious about the effective and fair enforcement of immigration laws, they should address unlawful agency practices. ICE now arrests people who pose no threat to public safety, including DACA recipients and people with legal status. Protecting public safety must be accomplished without scapegoating immigrants.

More funding for ICE and Border Patrol will harm America's national interests:

- **No blank checks without guardrails. Reform ICE and Border Patrol first.**
 - All law enforcement agencies must follow the law and Constitution. Congress should codify reforms to bring ICE and Border Patrol under control.

- In May, [federal courts](#) found [ICE violated orders](#) and made unlawful warrantless arrests.
- [73.6%](#) of people ICE arrested have no criminal conviction They are not the “worst of the worst.”
- **Polls show Americans [want Congress to restore public safety](#) and rein in agencies.**
 - [65% of Americans disapprove](#) of how ICE is enforcing immigration laws
 - [62% of Americans](#) believe ICE is reducing Americans’ safety.
 - DHS [diverted thousands of officers](#) away from drug trafficking and other serious crimes.
- **ICE and Border Patrol do not need this money.** ICE and CBP have over [\\$100 billion](#) left in OBBBA funds. Americans expect Congress to impose fiscal responsibility, not waste money where it’s not needed.
- **Help Americans who are struggling financially:** Americans face rising gas, health care, housing, and food prices. Congress should fund urgent needs—not more lawless abuses.
 - [Food prices increased 3.2% over the last year.](#)
 - [Gas prices increased 42.6%](#) over the last year and is [costing Americans over \\$53 billion.](#)