



AMERICAN
IMMIGRATION
LAWYERS
ASSOCIATION

The Honorable John Thune
Senate Majority Leader
511 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Senate Minority Leader
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House of Representatives
521 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader of the House of Representatives
2267 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Via email

March 19, 2026

RE: Block Funding for ICE and CBP While Restoring Safety and Stability to Americans

Dear Leaders of the Senate and House:

On behalf of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA), we write to express our deep concern that the public safety of communities across the country is being undermined by the lawless and dangerous actions of immigration enforcement agencies. As a national organization of more than 18,000 immigration lawyers, AILA is receiving reports from its members in every region of the United States that their clients – including American businesses, families and individuals - are being personally and financially harmed by these enforcement practices. **As Congress debates DHS appropriations, we urge you to redouble efforts to enact meaningful reforms to hold ICE and CBP accountable and to withhold funding to these agencies until corrective measures are implemented.**

Americans expect ICE and CBP to respect the Constitution and rule of law. Yet, even after the killings of Alex Pretti and Renee Good, federal officers continue to enter people's homes and make arrests on the streets without warrants. They enter schools, hospitals, and places of worship, disrupting essential services and undermining safety in spaces that should be protected. These agencies have also engaged in profiling based on accent, race, and other impermissible traits, further eroding public trust and community stability. For example, in February, ICE lied to Columbia University authorities to gain entry into a student's apartment and arrested her without a [warrant](#). ICE and CBP must comply with the 4th Amendment which protects Americans from arbitrary detention and the risk that law enforcement will wrongfully arrest someone without

probable cause or use factors like race. Congress should codify these principles and impose consequences, such as dismissing the case, if federal officers violate the rule.

ICE and Border Patrol are posing dangers to our communities, and [more](#) and [more](#) Americans want it stopped. Recent terrible abuses include [an Afghan man](#) who served with the U.S. military in Afghanistan and became the 41st person to die while in ICE custody since the Administration took office, and a [blind elderly Rohingya refugee](#) who died in the cold on the streets of Buffalo after being wrongfully detained and then released by Border Patrol. Such arrests and the extensive use of inhumane detention are inexcusable and cannot continue.

Earlier this month [AILA recommended these reforms to ICE and CBP, along with reductions to their funding](#), to restore accountability and protect American communities. Until agreement on those reforms is reached, **Congress should move forward with funding other DHS components that provide critical services and ensure public safety and national security - including TSA, FEMA, the Coast Guard, and CISA- while withholding funding for ICE and CBP.** There is no reason to hold up those agencies' funding, and we urge you to act immediately including by discharge petition or other measures to expedite the process.

We appreciate your urgent consideration of these recommendations and are available to discuss them with your staff. If you have any questions, please contact Greg Chen, Senior Director of Government Relations, at gchen@aila.org.

Sincerely,



Ben Johnson
Executive Director



Jeff Joseph
President