



AMERICAN
IMMIGRATION
LAWYERS
ASSOCIATION

Policy Brief: How Congress Should Stop ICE and Border Patrol Shootings and Violence

July 14, 2026

Contact: Greg Chen (gchen@aila.org), Joshua Rodriguez (jrodriguez@aila.org)

In the wake of [two deadly ICE-related shootings](#) in the last week, Congress must renew demands for federal immigration agencies to stop committing lawless abuses against immigrants and American citizens alike. ICE, Border Patrol, and other federal agencies continue to conduct unlawful and often violent arrests and detentions, resulting in serious abuses, injuries, and multiple deaths.

Despite growing public opposition, Congress still has not taken meaningful steps to stop these ongoing lawless practices. Instead, in the last year, Congress has given DHS nearly \$250 billion for immigration enforcement—an outrageous sum that could have helped struggling Americans meet basic needs amid the current affordability crisis.

Leaders in Congress should demand accountability and reforms that ensure the nation's immigration agencies operate in a fair, lawful, and humane manner and bring order and safety to American communities. This policy brief highlights recent actions by ICE and Border Patrol and offers AILA's solutions for reforming the system: [A Better Way on Immigration](#).

ICE's immigration enforcement tactics and lax detention standards are dangerous, leading to unprecedented numbers of deaths and serious injuries.

- On July 13, an ICE agent fatally shot a man in his car in Maine. DHS claims the man, a Colombian national, had tried to hit the agent with the vehicle. Initial reports indicate the agents involved [were not wearing body cameras](#) and the man was [not the target](#) of the enforcement operation.
- On July 7, ICE agents [fatally shot](#) Lorenzo Salgado Araujo, a Mexican national who was on his way to work, in Houston during an attempted traffic stop. Salgado Araujo's son said that his father had been in the U.S. for 35 years and was in the process of obtaining his legal work permit. While DHS claims that Salgado Araujo tried to "weaponize his vehicle," eyewitnesses dispute this claim. The agents involved were [not wearing body cameras](#). **Immigration agents have shot over 21 people since the start of the Administration.**
- On June 28, ICE agents in Milwaukee [arrested and detained](#) a Nicaraguan asylum seeker, his fiancée, and her brother after an agent broke their car window with gun drawn and refused to provide an explanation. When the agent found the asylum seeker's work permit, he insisted it was forged.
- On June 27, ICE agents in Milwaukee violently detained a woman from the Dominican Republic who has no criminal history. Agents [broke](#) her car window, choked her, and caused her to faint. Her 7-year-old son was in the back seat of the car during the arrest.

- On June 4, ICE [detained](#) two roofers in Brockton, Massachusetts, and an agent punched one of them—who is a U.S. citizen—in the face. Six ICE vehicles surrounded the roofers’ work van before the arrest.
- On January 3, Geraldo Lunas Campos [died](#) after being choked by guards at Camp East Montana, a detention facility in El Paso. DHS alleged that Lunas Campos was attempting suicide when guards intervened. Recently reviewed medical records show that for months prior to his death, Lunas Campos sought help for his bipolar disorder and anxiety, notifying staff that he was not receiving the proper medications. **Campos’ death is just one example of the [over 50 deaths](#) that have occurred in immigration detention since the beginning of the Administration.**

[A Better Way on Immigration:](#) The current Administration [has eliminated oversight entities](#) that Congress created to check abusive practices in enforcement and [detention](#). Congress must restore public trust in the immigration system by establishing [a robust, independent oversight body](#) with the authority to stop [ICE and Border Patrol abuses](#). Congress should also codify humane and effective enforcement standards that restrict the use of force and require immigration agents to undergo extensive and ongoing law enforcement training, identify themselves in enforcement actions, and use body-worn cameras. Violations of these standards should be checked by enforceable consequences and should result in exclusion of evidence and dismissal of the immigration court case.

ICE is not going after the “worst of the worst.” Instead, ICE detains minors, religious workers, U.S. citizens, and others with no criminal history.

- On June 28, ICE agents [arrested and detained](#) a nun from Nigeria who was walking to Mass in McAllen, Texas. She is in the country legally and is a registered nurse. ICE later released her.
- On June 9, ICE [detained](#) three teenagers on their way to work in Christian County, Illinois. One is a 16-year-old minor who was not released to family members and was instead sent to a Texas detention center.
- On May 20, ICE [stopped and detained](#) a U.S. citizen born in Colorado in Lafayette, Louisiana, despite her showing a valid state ID and Social Security card. Agents handcuffed, shackled, interrogated, and held her for hours. DHS released her after a lawyer intervened but kept her Social Security card and told her not to leave the state.

[A Better Way on Immigration:](#) DHS should [prioritize immigration enforcement](#) instead of indiscriminately detaining people to meet quotas. As with the [national security](#) and [law enforcement](#) fields, the successful and effective enforcement of immigration law requires prioritization that focuses on actual threats. Congress should codify priorities based on public safety, national security, border security, and severity of criminal offenses.

ICE continues to conduct enforcement activities at schools, courthouses, and other sensitive locations.

- On June 25, ICE [arrested](#) an individual at an immigration court in Manhattan in direct violation of a federal court [order](#) blocking ICE from arresting people at court hearings.
- On June 23, ICE [went](#) to a Syracuse, New York polling site to threaten legal action against a poll worker who posted on social media to urge the indictment of the ICE agent who killed Renee Good.

- On June 13, ICE [arrested](#) a student on the campus of Edmonds College in Washington. The college president said the ICE agents failed to provide their names, badges, or a warrant.

[A Better Way on Immigration](#): Congress should enact laws that [prohibit immigration enforcement actions at sensitive locations](#)—such as courthouses, schools, hospitals, and houses of worship—and mandate the appropriate warrants for arrests and entries.