



AMERICAN  
IMMIGRATION  
LAWYERS  
ASSOCIATION

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

June 3, 2026

The American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) urges Congress **VOTE NO on the FY26 Budget Reconciliation bill**, which hands ICE and Border Patrol a \$70 billion blank check funding them through FY 2029. The new bill, updated this week, now provides ICE with an extra \$350 million to launch enforcement surges to arrest and detain a wider range of people in cities that do not have a [specific](#) agreements to cooperate with ICE – a provision that could be used as a political 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. 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 NY federal court order](#) that prohibited ICE from routinely detaining people at immigration court proceedings--by detaining a 21-year-old at a court protected under the order.
- On May 20, ICE agents [arrested and detained a Spanish-speaking U.S. citizen](#) born in Colorado after accusing her of presenting forged identification documents. Once released, ICE informed her that they would be working to deport 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](#) and 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. ICE is already targeting and arresting DACA recipients and many who have legal status. Protecting public safety is essential but that can be accomplished without scapegoating immigrants and treating them like criminals. If the bill's drafters were serious about improving the immigration system, they should have included reforms to address the dangerous, unlawful practices.

## 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 before providing more funding.
  - In May, [federal courts](#) found [ICE violated court orders](#) by making unlawful warrantless arrests.
  - [73.6%](#) of people ICE arrested have no criminal conviction; these are not the “worst of the worst.”
- **Polls show Americans [want Congress to restore public safety](#) and rein in these 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 are facing rising costs of gas, health care, housing, food. Congress should direct funds to urgent needs -- not unsafe, 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.](#)