

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 12, 2026

The Honorable Kristi Noem  
Secretary of Homeland Security  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
2707 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20528

Mr. Todd M. Lyons  
Acting Director  
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement  
500 12th Street SW, Mail Stop 5902  
Washington, D.C. 20536

Dear Secretary Noem and Acting Director Lyons,

We write with grave concern that officers of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), including U.S. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE), appear to be engaging in a pattern of illegal and unconstitutional retaliation against Minnesota businesses and institutions in response to employees' lawful exercise of their First Amendment rights.

On January 16, an owner of Mischief Toy Store in Saint Paul was interviewed on ABC News about the store's efforts to hand out free 3D printed whistles to support a "nonviolent form of protest and to alert everyone around that there is ICE activity going on."<sup>1</sup> The owner described how ICE officers are raiding homes and kidnapping people at gunpoint, and how DHS operations are threatening the safety of all Minnesotans.<sup>2</sup>

Just hours after this television interview aired, two plainclothes ICE agents visited Mischief Toy Store and served the business with a Notice of Inspection. The store, which has only five part-time employees and three owners, was ordered to turn over all I-9 documents.

This does not appear to be an isolated incident. **On January 8, DHS issued** a subpoena to Hennepin Healthcare for the hospital's I-9 forms **just** two days after hospital staff and local elected officials participated in a public press conference critical of ICE agents' actions at the hospital.<sup>3</sup> On January 12, ICE agents also attempted to raid Wrecktangle Pizza after the restaurant raised funds and provided free pizzas to those affected by DHS's ongoing presence in the Twin Cities.<sup>4</sup>

The timing of these enforcement actions raise serious concerns that DHS and ICE are using immigration enforcement to intimidate and punish those speaking out against the actions of the Trump administration in Minnesota. In order to better understand the full scope of these alarming incidents and how DHS and ICE immigration enforcement activities may be infringing on the rights of U.S. citizens, please provide the following information as soon as possible, but no later than 5:00 p.m. on February 27, 2026:

1. What criteria is DHS using to determine which businesses are subject to immigration enforcement actions?
2. What level of supervisory approval is required before issuing a Notice of Inspection or a subpoena for employment records and I-9 documentation?

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<sup>1</sup> Minnesota toy store handing out free ICE alert whistles, ABC (Jan. 12, 2026), <https://abcnews.go.com/US/video/minnesota-toy-store-handing-free-ice-alert-whistles-129292281>.

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

<sup>3</sup> Max Nesterak, *Homeland Security audits Hennepin Healthcare's employment records for undocumented workers*, M.N. REFORMER (Jan. 15, 2026) <https://minnesotareformer.com/2026/01/15/homeland-security-audits-hennepin-healthcares/>.

<sup>4</sup> Jason Rantala, *Federal agents chased off from Minneapolis restaurant helping people impacted by increased ICE presence*, CBS (Jan. 13, 2026) <https://www.cbsnews.com/minnesota/news/wrecktangle-pizza-stop-ice-south-minneapolis/>.

3. What policies or safeguards exist to prevent workforce enforcement actions from being used in retaliation for protected speech?
4. How many I-9 audits took place in Minnesota in Fiscal Year 2025? How many have taken place so far in Fiscal Year 2026, and how many of those have taken place since the initiation of Operation PARRIS (Post-Admission Refugee Reverification and Integrity Strengthening)?
  - a. Within each of these tallies please indicate how many of these audits have been for small businesses with 10 or fewer employees.
5. When was the decision made to serve Mischief Toy Store with a Notice of Inspection?
  - a. Provide all documentation and records related to the timeline of this decision.
  - b. Who made this decision, and did that individual receive any direction from appointed officials at DHS or ICE?
  - c. Provide all documents and communications regarding the decision to issue a Notice of Inspection to Mischief Toy Store between or among any DHS or ICE agents, officers, and appointed officials.
6. When was the decision made to issue a subpoena to Hennepin Healthcare for its Form I-9 records?
  - a. Provide all documents and records reflecting the timeline of this decision.
  - b. Who made this decision, and did that individual receive any direction or guidance from appointed officials at DHS or ICE?
  - c. Provide all documents and communications regarding the decision to subpoena Hennepin Healthcare for its Form I-9 records between or among any DHS or ICE agents, officers, and appointed officials.
7. When was the decision made for ICE agents to conduct an immigration enforcement raid at Wrecktangle Pizza?
  - a. Provide all documents and records reflecting the timeline of this decision.
  - b. Who made this decision, and did that individual receive any direction or guidance from appointed officials at DHS or ICE?
  - c. Provide all documents and communications regarding the decision to conduct an immigration enforcement raid at Wrecktangle Pizza between or among any DHS or ICE agents, officers, and appointed officials.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress

CC: The Honorable Dr. Joseph V. Cuffari, Department of Homeland Security Inspector General