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**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2026 12:28 PM  
**To:** AMMPARO@LISTSERV.ELCA.ORG  
**Subject:** DHS Funding State of Play + Possible Advocacy Actions

## **Immigration Funding State of Play**

Happy Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>.

Members of Congress are returning to their home districts on recess after failing to pass an agreement that would fund DHS with appropriate oversight/ accountability measures for ICE and other immigration enforcement agencies.

Funding for DHS runs out at midnight tonight, which won't slow down ICE and CBP – they are expected to continue normal operations, drawing on the \$100 billion+ they received last summer.

The White House and Senate Democrats have been [exchanging proposals](#) for legislative language, though details of the negotiations are not all public. Some Republican members are pushing their own priorities, like restrictions on sanctuary cities.

This week, Bishop Curry led an [Ecumenical Letter](#) advocating for real reforms to be included in DHS negotiations, joined by 8 other Christian denominations and organizations. ELCA advocates for provisions beyond Democrats' requests, including limiting excess funding for ICE and CBP, protections for immigrants in detention, and an end to re-interviews of refugees.

### **What's Next?**

As stated above, ICE and CBP have plenty of funding to continue working through a shutdown – and leadership has signaled that they expect no interruption in immigration enforcement.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services is primarily fee-funded, which would allow processing of green cards and other benefits to continue.

[FEMA advocates say](#) that FEMA has sufficient funds in its Disaster Relief Fund to weather a short shutdown, but a major disaster could strain resources.

TSA, Coast Guard, and Secret Service staff may be required to [work without pay](#).

Members of Congress have left Washington and won't return until February 23rd, but have been warned to return quickly if a deal seems likely.

### **Advocate**

With your members of Congress in-district this week, there may be opportunities to engage with them directly at town halls, public events, or in-person meetings at their local offices.

Send a message via [this ELCA Action Alert](#) – even if you've sent it before! We've been updating the text to reflect the changes in the bill negotiations.

Call your member of Congress. You can use the talking points in the action alert or ecumenical letter, with some framing highlighted below:

- Reforms to immigration enforcement are URGENT. Federal agents are committing violence in our communities with impunity and [lack the](#)

[oversight or accountability](#) that we need to protect our communities.

Business as usual is not acceptable.

- We want to see meaningful policy changes, including [highlight the changes most important to you – i.e. end arrests without a warrant and racial profiling, require independent investigation into the killings of Good and Petti, codify protections for our churches and sacred spaces from immigration enforcement]
- We don't want an endless shutdown or patchwork continuing resolutions funding this agency in increments of days or weeks. Negotiate the protections that your constituents want to see and pass a funding bill through the end of Fiscal Year 2026.

### **Oversight**

I mentioned in an earlier email that this week saw some of the first Congressional oversight hearings with the heads of ICE, CBP, and USCIS. I've attached a few transcripts for anyone with the time (and stomach) to read through.

Don't want to read it all? (I get it) Maybe ctrl+f the name of your member of Congress and send a note in follow up. If any of your elected officials asked good questions, a "thank you" to their office can go a long way.

- House Homeland Security Committee holds hearing on ICE-Customs-Citizenship and Immigration
- Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee holds hearing on ICE, Customs, Citizenship and Immigration
- House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security holds hearing on potential DHS shutdown impacts
- Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Border Security and Immigration holds hearing on "Somali fraud in Minnesota"



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