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House Homeland Security Committee Holds Hearing on ICE-Customs-Citizenship and Immigration

LIST OF PANEL MEMBERS AND WITNESSES

ANDREW GARBARINO:

Committee on Homeland Security will come to order. Without objection, the chair may declare the committee in recess at any point. Purpose of today's hearing is to conduct oversight of the Department of Homeland Security and assess priorities for US Immigration and Customs Enforcement, US Customs and Border Protection and US Citizenship and Immigration Services for the calendar year 2026. Before we get started, I'd like to remind the members and the public of the rules of decorum.

These issues we are debating are important ones that members feel deeply about. While vigorous disagreement is part of the legislative process, members are reminded that we must adhere to established standards of decorum and debate. It is a violation of House rules and the rules of this committee to engage in personalities regarding other members or to question the motives of a colleague.

It is also a clear violation of the rules of the House to make statements



Hi. Need any help?

personally be offensive to the president or the vice



president of the United States. Remarks of that type are not permitted by the rules and are not in keeping with the best traditions of our

committee. The chair will enforce these rules of decorum at all times and urges all members to be mindful of their remarks.

Further, under the rules of the House, the chairman is responsible for maintaining order and preserving decorum in the committee room. I expect audience members to be respectful of the witnesses, members and the public. If members of the audience are personally -- persistently or overly disruptive, it is a violation of federal law and you will be subject to removal and arrest.

I now recognize myself for an opening statement. I want to start by thanking our witnesses for appearing before the committee today. Today's hearing provides that the American people the ability to hear directly from the leaders that enforce our nation's immigration laws. It is our imperative as representatives of the people to be a voice for the people.

Transparency, communication and accountability are keys to good government. This is why oversight is important. Informing Congress and the public is not casting accusations nor is it a punishment. Congress has a duty to hear directly from the executive branch; a duty I take seriously. The executive branch has a duty to keep us informed.

While this hearing was long planned, we sit here today in an inflection point, an opportunity to assess and reinforce the integrity of immigration enforcement and to strengthen public trust. An opportunity to emphasize and underscore the Department of Homeland Security's no fail mission as a whole. My top priority as chairman is and will always be, protecting America, while ensuring the safety of law enforcement.

This is further important in the context of another potential shutdown of the department. Let me be clear, shutting down DHS makes

America less safe and negatively impacts thousands of federal employees like those at TSA and CISA. The Department of Homeland Security is the nation's largest federal law enforcement agency.

It is this committee's duty regardless of administration to conduct oversight. We need to examine how DHS components are enforcing the law and ensure they have the resources in place to do work safely, effectively and properly. Last year, we provided historic resources through reconciliation to strengthen public safety and support for the Trump Administration's unprecedented efforts to secure the border.

This was the single largest investment in the domestic homeland security mission. To succeed, we all need to work together seamlessly and this committee is a partner in that effort. It is important to remember how we got here. For years we witnessed a blanket refusal to enforce the law, wide open borders, catch and release policies and uncontrolled mass migration.

These policies undermine the rule of law and endangered all Americans. Enforcing immigration law is not optional. The Trump Administration's record on border security is irrefutable. Nationwide border encounters last December decreased 91 percent compared to 2023. Apprehensions between ports of entry last December decreased 86 percent compared to 2024 and we ended last year with eight consecutive months of zero parole releases by Border Patrol.

Further, thousands of criminal illegal aliens have been detained and deported. These actions make America safer and more secure, but the credibility of these successes is on the line. We must take the temperature down and look at the record of enforcement actions through rational eyes. We've seen a significant increase in violent rhetoric and agitation.

We've seen a significant increase in attacks on federal law enforcement and a number of threats facing them and their families. This committee highlighted the threat increases to law enforcement at an earlier hearing. We have seen state and local jurisdictions refuse to protect federal law enforcement officers and obviously we have now seen the deaths of two American citizens in Minnesota.

This is all unacceptable and preventable. The safety and law enforcement and the communities they serve and protect must always come first. When officials or elected leaders rush to conclusions about law enforcement or their fellow Americans, public trust suffers. There must be complete and impartial investigation.

I expect each of our witnesses to keep this committee fully informed as the investigations run their course and I will ensure this happens. While these investigations are ongoing, officials and elected leaders cannot rush to judgment. I cannot put myself in the shoes of law enforcement nor can I imagine what the families of Ms. Good, Mr. Pretti are enduring today.

Public trust and public safety go hand in hand. We cannot have one without the other. I am encouraged to see that President Trump sent border Czar Tom Homan and Commissioner Scott to Minnesota to work with Governor Walz, Mayor Frey and other local leaders. I sincerely hope this dialog continues. This should stand as an example of cooperation to -- to anyone who continues to incentivize reckless behavior in our streets, unlawfully impede law enforcement operations or disparage their fellow citizens.

State and local officials should be partners, not obstacles, when it comes to public safety and federal officials should keep in mind that this kind of partnership is a two-way street. Everyone should have the

same goal of keeping America safe. Transparency and communication are needed now more than ever.

The department's no fail mission hangs in the balance. A rule based order is not one-sided, enforcing immigration law and defending all Americans constitutional rights including the right to peacefully protest, bear arms and privacy are not mutually exclusive. I want to thank Secretary Noem for making these witnesses rapidly -- rapidly available and again -- again thank the three of you for being here today.

As Border Czar Homan recently said, you can't fix problems if you don't have discussions. I hope we can have a positive, civil and productive discussion today. Only together can we make our communities stronger and the homeland safer for future of all Americans. I now recognize the ranking member, the gentleman from Mississippi, Mr. Thompson, for his opening statement.

BENNIE THOMPSON:

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Good morning to all of you who are here. I thank you for calling this hearing today. This important hearing has drawn a great deal of interest and attention and many of my colleagues who represent the border city of El Paso and who have been leaders on border security, uh -- Veronica Escobar, has joined us today and would like to ask questions of our witnesses.

So, Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that the gentlewoman from Texas, Ms. Escobar, be permitted to sit with the committee and question today's witnesses as we have afforded that to other individuals. In past hearings.

ANDREW GARBARINO:

I thank the gentlewoman for their interest in today's important hearing. As I previously informed both the Majority and Minority Committee will not be entertaining off committee member requests. Therefore I object.

BENNIE THOMPSON:

Well, and your objection is noted, Mr. Chairman, but I would, for the record, want to say that it's highly unusual that, uh, a member of Congress, sitting, uh, with as much impact on, um, immigration as her area, is not afforded that courtesy. Uh, but you're the chairman and, uh, that's your prerogative as if it would be anyone else's.

ANDREW GARBARINO:

As the ranking member knows, we had many requests. This is a very important hearing, uh, it is my duty to keep the wheels on this hearing and get actual answers on the record. I thank the gentlelady interest. Uh, we had a lot of members who were interested in being here today, uh, which is why we thought it would be best just to keep it for members of the committee.

Uh, -- these gentlemen have repeatedly testified, uh, before many committees, uh, at the Capitol, and I'm sure other members will get the opportunity to do the same questioning. Uh, this is Committee on Homeland Security. Uh, we had previously said we would not wave on members specifically for this hearing, and we're going to stick by that rule today.

BENNIE THOMPSON:

Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. May I say to Ms. Escobar, if there are questions you would like to have asked of these witnesses, if you will provide those questions, uh, to -- to me or any other member of the committee, we'll be more than happy to transmit them. Thank you so much. I hope my Republican colleagues will remember that our job is to conduct oversight, not cover for Donald Trump and his out-of-control administration, which is running roughshod over Americans rights, killing US citizens and threatening our very democracy.

The disease rotting the Trump Administration from the inside out started at the top and has infected every part of the executive branch. Nowhere is that more evident than at the Department of Homeland Security. This hearing is just the start of a reckoning for the Trump Administration and its weaponization of DHS against American citizens and the principle our country stands for.

DHS, led by Secretary Kristi Noem, must be held accountable for its lawlessness immigration operation. They are reckless, creating chaos in our communities, terrorizing adults and children alike and undermining our moral authority as a nation of liberty and rule of law. Last month an ICE agent shot and killed Renee Good, a Minneapolis mom in cold blood as she drove away -- away from him.

After killing her, the agent called her a disgusting name, I won't repeat here. Other agents refused to allow a nearby physician to treat her. Democrats call for accountability. Instead, Secretary Noem blamed the victim, Ms. Good and attempted to gaslight Americans with false claims that Ms. Good was a domestic terrorist.

Renee Good was nothing of the sort. She was a mom, a wife, a neighbor and an American citizen who did not deserve to die at the hands of her own government. She should be alive today. Ever since,

the Trump Administration has devoted the full resources of the federal government to blocking a legitimate investigation into Ms. Good's killing.

If that isn't a sign of guilt, I don't know what is. Federal prosecutors had a warrant to collect evidence from Ms. Goods vehicle for a civil rights investigation into ICEs use of force, but FBI Director Kash Patel and other Trump Administration officials, demanded they drop it. Career prosecutors duly bound to the rule of law, not the political prerogatives of the White House, resigned in protest.

Blocking an investigation into the government's use of force against one of its own citizens is a self-dictatorship, not democracies. Every American should be outraged. Democrats tried to get answers in the aftermath of Ms. Good's shooting. We called on acting director, Todd Lyons, to testify at the committee's hearing three weeks ago.

Unfortunately, he turned down the committee's invitation. This is part of a pattern of the Trump Administration's refusal to comply with regular Congressional oversight. Committee Democrats have sent multiple letters to ICE and CBP on critical issues, but most of them, ten, have gone unanswered, Mr. Chairman.

I ask unanimous consent to include all ten of these records into the record, letters into the record.

ANDREW GARBARINO:
Without objection.

BENNIE THOMPSON:
ICE has blocked members of Congress from visiting its detention facilities, even after reports of horrific conditions, detainee abuse and

a detainee being murdered in a DHS facility. I was one of those individuals, uh, who pointed to a lawsuit to try to get ICE to just follow the law that says members of Congress, uh, can visit ICE facilities and present themselves at any time.

So, uh, I understand that, uh, it's still being litigated. But I've been given authority to go and I plan to do it this week just to test ICEs, uh, adherence to the law. Mr. Lyons is here today, nearly a month after we invited him. I guess DHS needed time to get his story straight before he came to testify under oath.

Fearing more violence from federal law enforcement, Democrats have also called on DHS to rein in immigration agents and their brutal attacks on Americans immediately following Ms. Good's murder but DHS ignored our pleas. Instead, Greg Bovino, who styled himself in Nazi attire and takes joy in deploying tear gas at Americans, continued to roam around Minneapolis with his masked gang terrorizing people and violating their constitutional rights.

And tragically, our worst fears were realized. Just days after the hearing Mr. Lyons refused to participate in, CBP personnel shot Alex Pretti and he was faced down on Minneapolis' sidewalk killing him in broad daylight. In the video of the incident, a DHS agent can be seen cheering Mr. Pretti's death; Americans watched the video in horror.

Yet, once again, Secretary Noem gaslit the public, made up a demonstrably false story about Mr. Pretti and blamed the victim for his own death. Mr. Pretti was a law-abiding US citizen and a VA nurse who dedicated his career to caring for our veterans. Mr. Chairman, at our last month hearing, I asked for a moment of silence in the memory of Renee Good.

Today with great sadness about another American killed at the hands of DHS, I ask that the committee observe a moment of silence in honor of Alex Pretti. Thank you. The slaying of Ms. Good and Mr. Pretti by DHS, are the most tragic examples of what is wrong with Trump's DHS, but far from the only ones. Last fall, a Border Patrol agent shot, Marimar Martinez, a US citizen and preschool teacher from Chicago, five times.

The agent bragged in text messages about shooting her, saying, quote, "I fired five rounds and she had seven holes. Put that in your book, boys." Again, the Trump Administration tried to blame Ms. Martinez, the victim, but prosecutors dropped charges against her when it became apparent that the evidence contradicted the Border Patrol's phony account.

Unlike Ms. Goods' and Mr. Pretti's, we can no longer tell their stories. Ms. Martinez has shared her story about what Trump's DHS did to her. I want to play a bit of the video here because people need to see what ICE and CBP are doing to Americans.

[Begin Videotape]

MARIMAR MARTINEZ:

So, this is the first one I realized. I was like, oh, it's just a pepper pellet, but no, and then I got shot right here. And then I have a wound on the side of my chest right here. And then I got two holes in my thigh and then, yeah.

CECILIA VEGA:

Wow.

MARIMAR MARTINEZ:

Over here.

CECILIA VEGA:

Wow, you're covered in wounds.

MARIMAR MARTINEZ:

Wounds. Yeah, and I want people to see like what's going on. Like the type of stuff they're doing.

[End Videotape]

BENNIE THOMPSON:

What happened to Ms. Martinez, Ms. Good and Mr. Pretti, is a scourge on this country and a shameful chapter in our nation's history. But tragically, there is more. DHS agents recently used a five year old Ecuadorian boy, Lehman Ramos, as bait to lure his family members outside their home to arrest them. The family has, had, entered the country legally as asylum seekers and were living in Minnesota while awaiting their immigration proceedings.

DHS sent the little boy and his father to detention in Texas for over a week. Thankfully, a judge ordered him released, slamming DHS for its, and I quote, "Incompetently implemented deportation campaign." Incompetently implemented deportation campaign is putting it nicely, especially as it relates to small children.

More apt in the Bible quote, from John 11, Chapter 35, referenced at the end of the judge's opinion, "Jesus wept." DHS personnel are now forcing their way into private homes without a judicial warrant in violation of the Fourth Amendment. In one recent incident, ICE

dragged a US citizen from his home at gunpoint in underwear before realizing they had picked up the wrong person.

The person ICE was actually looking for was sitting in jail in Minnesota. The Minnesota Department of Corrections says that ICE had this information all along. Bystander videos from Minneapolis and cities around the country show ICE and CBP personnel having, behaving, like unprofessional goons cursing at bystanders and mooning people from their hotel rooms.

News reports have a Border Patrol agent was found passed out, drunk and covered in vomit in a vehicle and ICE personnel apparently stole a child's phone and sold it for cash. It's an embarrassment and DHS is so-called leadership should be ashamed. If only they had any shame. Secretary Noem, Department of Homeland Security, has the blood of American citizens on its hand.

But she takes no responsibility for anything. To the contrary, Secretary Noem was last seen in this committee room hiding behind her family in a desperate attempt to distract -- distract from her department's failures and abuses. Then she ran from our questions, leaving early under the guise of needing to attend a meeting that it turns out didn't even exist.

Her inexcusable behavior should come as no surprise. She all -- she's always been more concerned with photo ops and wardrobe changes than following the law and fulfilling the mission of her department. Since being sworn in, Secretary Noem has enriched herself, abused the power of her office, obstructed Congressional oversight and violated her oath to the Constitution.

Donald Trump and Kristi Noem are doing real damage to this country and to the department that was stood up 25 years ago in the wake of

9/11 to protect American citizens from future attacks. Secretary Noem is a liar with no concern for the lives of Americans killed by the department she runs. She must go. Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

ANDREW GARBARINO:

Gentleman, yields back. Other members of the committee are reminded that opening statements may be submitted for the record. I would now like to formally introduce our witnesses. First is Mr. Rodney Scott. Mr. Scott is commissioner of US Customs and Border Protection. After decades of service at CBP, including a stint as chief Border Patrol, he served as a Senate confirmed commissioner since June of 2025.

Second is Mr. Joseph Edlow. Mr. Edlow is director of Citizenship and Immigration Services. Director Edlow has served in numerous legal roles across executive branch and Congress, including chief Counsel to USCIS. Mr. Edlow has served as a Senate confirmation -- Senate confirmed director since July 2025. Third is Mr. Todd Lyons. Mr. Lyons is the acting director of Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Acting Director Lyons began his federal service in the US Air Force in 1993 and joined ICE as an agent in 2007. Mr. Lyons moved up the ranks and has served as acting director since March of 2025. I thank all the witnesses for being here today. Pursuant to Committee Rule 8(c), I ask that the witnesses please rise and raise their right hand.

Do you solemnly swear that the testimony you will give before the Committee on Homeland Security of the United States House of Representatives will be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help you God? Let the record reflect that the witnesses have answered in the affirmative. Thank you and please be seated.

I now recognize Commissioner Scott for five minutes to summarize his opening statement.

RODNEY SCOTT:

Chairman Garbarino, Ranking Member Thompson, members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear here before you today. I'm honored to represent more than 67,000 dedicated men and women of US Customs and Border Protection who are tirelessly protecting this great nation every single day by simply trying to make sure we know who and what is entering our homeland.

Border security is national security. Law enforcement personnel that selflessly provide this service to America increasingly perform under difficult conditions and intense public and political scrutiny. But these brave men and women deserve our gratitude and thanks. It's my privilege to be here today joining my colleagues from Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Citizenship and Immigration Services.

Our agencies work in partnership to secure the homeland and uphold the integrity of our immigration system. CBP has spent the last year rebuilding what was an intentionally broken border. As I informed Congress in 2021 and again in 2023, the open border policies of the Biden Administration all but eliminated any meaningful border along -- any meaningful border and it replaced it with a porous geographic line defined by record high encounters with illegal aliens, overwhelmed facilities and a workforce that was stretched so far beyond their capabilities that hostile nations and the cartels exploited our border at will.

That all changed on January 20, 2025 under the leadership of President Trump. We have now implemented effective policies,

established unified priorities and objectives across all federal departments and empowered our workforce to do their jobs by simply enforcing the laws that already exist. We have imposed consequences for those who break our laws, the laws that this body enacted.

And today the United States, because of these efforts, enjoys the most secure border in our nation's history, but this progress did not happen by accident. It's a result of a comprehensive approach to border security. We ended catch and release, we prioritized detention and removal authorities and we sent a clear message that illegal entry into the United States will not be tolerated.

And the numbers speak for themselves. We have achieved record low illegal crossings between ports of entry, border patrol apprehensions along the southwest border totaled over 90,000 for the entire year. That's a number that used to represent a single month under the Biden Administration. Daily encounters have dropped by 95 percent, averaging about 250 per day compared to 5,000 a day during the Biden Administration.

Our increased enforcement also resulted in the seizure of over 617,000 pounds of illicit narcotics. That's nationwide, an 8 percent increase over the prior year. This included nearly 11,000 pounds of fentanyl and more than 186,000 pounds of methamphetamines. This is what having a secure border looks like.

None of this would have been possible though without the vision and leadership of President Trump and the historic investments made in border security. The One Big, Beautiful Bill, a \$65 billion investment is enabling CBP to modernize border infrastructure, deploy additional advanced technology and to grow our workforce.

Since January 2025, CBP is building Smart Wall at record levels, we're installing high-tech attributes where the Biden Administration had shut it off, we're installing water barriers on -- along the Rio Grande River, which denies criminals access to these routes. But that is not all. We're investing in technology at our ports of entry non-intrusive inspection equipment, biometrics and advanced surveillance to improve our ability to know what's coming into this country, the land air and sea at and between the ports of entry.

CBPs workforce is without a doubt the greatest asset that we have. The One Big, Beautiful Bill is investing historic amounts of money in recruitment, hiring and retention and training to ensure that we have the most highly qualified and capable law enforcement professionals securing our border. Due to the collaboration across all federal departments, the resultant record low encounters, CBP has been able to surge resources to support ICEs targeted enforcement operations across the nation.

CBP is integrated with ICE and other partners to identify and remove dangerous criminals and others who remain in the country illegally. As recent events have demonstrated though, our officers and agents are increasingly facing an unprecedented level of aggressive interference and intimidation when executing the laws that you have asked them to enforce.

These attacks on federal law enforcement personnel are coordinated and well-funded. This is not peaceful protest. No law enforcement officer should be put at personal risk simply for doing the job that we have asked them to do. I thank you for your continued support of CBPs mission, and I look forward to answering your questions today.

ANDREW GARBARINO:

Thank you, commissioner. I now recognize Director Edlow for five minutes to summarize his opening statement.

JOSEPH EDLOW:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Chairman, Garbarino, Ranking Member Thompson and members of the committee, it is an honor to speak to you about the priorities and progress of US Citizenship and Immigration Services. I'm grateful for your partnership as we work together to uphold the rule of law, protect our citizens and safeguard our homeland.

Let me begin by expressing my appreciation to President Trump for his trust in me and to Secretary Noem for her leadership at the Department of Homeland Security. I'm proud to serve alongside a workforce that's deeply committed to advancing the president's agenda, protecting our communities and restoring integrity to America's legal immigration system.

As director of US Citizenship and Immigration Services, my vision has been straightforward and clear, restore accountability to our immigration system and ensure that it serves the interests of the American people first and foremost. Today, I want to highlight some of our most significant accomplishments; ending the exploitation of immigration programs, putting American workers first, protecting our communities from public safety threats, protecting national security and combating immigration fraud.

Fraud isn't just a paperwork issue, it's a national security and public safety concern. Often those who wish to do us harm exploit weaknesses in our system. Over the past year, USCIS has made nearly 33,000 fraud referrals to law enforcement, a 138 percent increase over previous years. We conducted thousands of site visits to homes

and workplaces and thousands of social media checks to ensure aliens aren't espousing anti-American sentiment.

Moreover, our Fraud Detection and National Security team completed over 21,000 investigations identifying fraud in approximately 65 percent of those cases. In Operation Twin Shield in Minneapolis-Saint Paul, back in the fall, we uncovered marriage fraud, visa misuse and student visa abuses leading to denials of immigration benefits, arrests and removal proceedings.

This work led to Operation PARRIS where we continue reexamining thousands of refugee cases in Minnesota, conducting thorough background checks and in-person reviews. We've also strengthened our vetting policies. If someone falsely claims US citizen citizenship to get a public benefit or try to vote, we hold them accountable through denial of citizenship or loss of immigration status.

We've tightened screening to determine whether claimed marriages and family relationships are legitimate and we've changed regulations to employ authorization to -- excuse me, to employment authorization is no longer automatically extended. Now we require more frequent renewals so that we can vet aliens more frequently and ensure that they deserve to remain in the country.

Additionally, we've taken action to end the exploitation of immigration programs. Mass humanitarian parole programs were being abused by the prior administration, so we've restored them to Congress's original intent; allowing those benefits on a case-by-case basis. Secretary Noem also ended decades of temporary protected status for several countries returning the program to what Congress intended; temporary protection, not permanent status in the United States.

Moreover, this administration is doing more to ensure the integrity of our elections. We enhance the SAVE Program so states can verify citizenship of those on their voter rolls more effectively. Since January 2025, we've processed over 58 million queries and 27 states are participating. Additionally, federal agencies ran nearly 206 million SAVE queries last year to identify fraud and preserve public assistance benefits for lawful US residents and citizens.

We've also -- we're also putting American taxpayers and communities and workers first. We affirmed that aliens should be self-reliant, not dependent on public assistance. And that their sponsors are liable for the cost of public benefits that they access. The Department of Homeland Security is also working to rescind the 2022 Public-Charge Rule, restoring our discretion to determine if an alien will rely on government assistance.

We've -- we've proposed protecting American jobs by prioritizing H-1B visas for higher skilled, higher paid workers, so that companies can't use those visas merely as a way to get cheaper non-citizen labor. We've also streamlined agricultural visa processing to better support American farmers. A major milestone was implementing the One Big, Beautiful Bill, which added new fees for certain immigration processes.

USCIS collects those fees, but only retains a small amount of the -- of the money while the rest goes to other agencies and deficit reduction. Finally, protecting the American people is at the heart of everything we do. After the attack on two brave service members of the National Guard last November, Secretary Noem directed us to review immigration benefits for aliens from high risk countries.

In closing, US Citizenship and Immigration Services is restoring integrity, accountability and security to America's legal immigration system. These accomplishments reflect the dedication of our workforce and the transformative leadership of President Trump and Secretary Noem, both of whom have allowed USCIS to do the job it was created by Congress to do. We stand ready to continue working with Congress to protect the homeland and uphold the rule of law.

Thank you, and I look forward to your questions.

ANDREW GARBARINO:

Thank you, Director Edlow. I now recognize Acting Director Lyons for five minutes to summarize his opening statement.

TODD LYONS:

Good morning. Chairman Garbarino, Ranking Member Thompson, distinguished members of the committee, thank you for the invitation to discuss the critical work US Immigration and Customs is doing every day to carry out President Trump's agenda to keep America safe, restore order to our communities and return law -- return the rule of law to this country.

Under the leadership of President Trump and DHS Secretary Kristi Noem, the men and women of ICE have been empowered to do exactly what they're trained to do, arrest and remove illegal aliens and criminals from our communities. We are enhancing public safety, securing our national security and, finally, restoring integrity to the immigration system that had been allowed to collapse.

We have supercharged our partnerships with state and local law enforcement, empowering offices around the country through the

287(g) program to help ICE identify and remove criminal aliens. Those partnerships have increased more than 900 percent since President Trump took office and our communities are safer for it. I am also proud of our agency's unprecedented hiring campaign that led to hiring of more than 12,000 officers and special agents in less than a year and more than 222,000 individuals submitted applications.

This expansion of a well-trained and well-vetted workforce will help further ICE's abilities to execute presidents and secretaries bold agenda. Before discussing our -- our broader operations, I must address the situation in Minnesota and the dangers that ICE agents and officers face nationwide. While the investigations remain ongoing, I'm encouraged that some Minnesota officials are finally signaling the willingness to cooperate with ICE, but let me be clear, promises are not enough.

We need action. In the wake of the unprecedented border crisis of the previous administration, ICE has stepped into the breach to enforce the law. This commitment has a cost. We are facing the deadliest operating environment in our -- our agency's history. In Fiscal Year 2025, death threats against ICE personnel increased more than 8,000 percent.

Assaults on officers have skyrocketed over 1,400 percent. One officer in Minnesota had his finger bitten off by a protester, egged on by elected officials characterizing our officers as Gestapo or secret police. The families of personnel, ICE personnel, have been made to feel unsafe in their homes. I know this firsthand -- firsthand because my own family was targeted.

But let me send a message to anyone who thinks they can intimidate us, you will fail. Despite these perils, our officers continue to execute

their mission with unwavering resolve and we are only getting started. ICE remains committed to the fundamental principles that those who illegally enter our country must be held accountable.

Since the beginning of the second Trump Administration, we have achieved historic results from January 20, 2025 through January 20, 2026, ICE has conducted nearly 379,000 arrests. Among those arrests were more than 7,000 suspected gang members and over 1,400 known or suspected terrorists. The president tasked us with mass deportation and we are fulfilling that mandate.

Thanks to the resources provided by this Congress, we are ramping up detention facilities and removal flights daily. In the last year alone, we conducted over 475,000 removals. It's a brutal reality that criminal immigration today is organized by sophisticated ruthless transnational criminal organizations.

These includes cartels and transnational gangs President Trump has rightfully designated a foreign terrorist organizations. The only way to defeat them is to destroy their revenue. Within Homeland Security Investigations, our special agents are delivering critical outcomes in the fight against transnational crime.

We are seizing fentanyl before it kills our children and dismantling the networks that poison our communities. In FY 2025 alone, we seized more than 2.5 million pounds of narcotics; a 50 percent increase from the previous year in a critical blow to transnational organization groups everywhere. HSI criminal arrests are at the highest point in history.

However, our approach is just not about enforcement, it is about restoring order and dignity to the human beings sold alive by smugglers and exploited by these TCOs. In August 2024, the DHS

Office of Inspector General released a report that concluded that more than 291,000 unaccompanied alien children, out of nearly 450,000 transferred from DHS to HHS custody were simply lost by the system.

We are talking about children exploited in factories, abused in sexual trades and living as indentured servants on American soil. HSI is leading the charge to find them. We have conducted more than 71,000 field engagements to locate children, verify sponsor legitimacy and uncover criminal activity related to exploitation.

Since February 2025, ICE has arrested more than 500 criminal sponsors of these offenses, including sexual exploitation and forced labor, dismantled more than 2,400 human smuggling operations and along with our federal partners located more than 145,000 children. To further ensure TCOs can never threaten our nation again, President Trump dedicated the establishment of the Homeland Security Task Force.

The Homeland Security Task Forces represent the most aggressive and coordinated attack on TCOs in history. Through Cross-Border Financial Crime Center, we have developed and implemented a strategy to combat rampant fraud, including government programs in Minnesota and across the country. Using this strategy, HSI has opened numerous criminal investigations into the complex fraud systems that have resulted in the thefts of billions.

Much of the fight ICE faces continue to be fueled by so-called sanctuary cities. These jurisdictions provided a shield for criminal aliens when a local jail refuses to honor ICE detainer and releases that predator back into the community. ICE exists to enforce America's long standing immigration and customs laws.

These laws are grounded in common sense, national sovereignty and simple morality. Our offices and agents enforce these without hesitation, without apology. I ask that all the members of the committee treat them with profound respect that they have earned. Thank you.

ANDREW GARBARINO:

Thank you, Acting Director Lyons. Member -- members will be recognized by order of seniority for their five minutes of questioning. As we have the -- when Secretary Noem was here, uh, we're going to limit it to five -- the five minute rule. I'm going to be strict on that for both sides, so do not be surprised if you go over, I gavel you down.

I now recognize myself for five minutes of questions. Acting Director Lyons, I understand that you cannot discuss the details of the two recent shootings in Minnesota because they are subject of several investigations including by the FBI, the Department of Homeland Security and the DOJ Civil Rights Division.

Once concluded, will you commit to providing the reports and findings of each investigation to this committee?

TODD LYONS:

Yes, Mr. Chairman. We're fully committed to give you the full and unabridged investigation, the outcome.

ANDREW GARBARINO:

Thank you. Commissioner Scott, can the committee have the same commitment from you?

RODNEY SCOTT:

Yes, sir.

ANDREW GARBARINO:

Thank you both. Commissioner Scott and Acting Director Lyons, following this hearing in writing, I'd like to know what is the standard operating procedure for each of your agencies for an investigation when deadly force is used. Currently, uh, Acting Director Lyons, are those procedures being followed for the two uses of deadly force in Minneapolis this past January?

TODD LYONS:

Yes, Mr. Chairman.

ANDREW GARBARINO:

Were those -- and Mr. -- Commissioner Scott?

RODNEY SCOTT:

Yes, sir, they are.

ANDREW GARBARINO:

Were the standard procedures followed from the beginning, Mr. Lyons?

TODD LYONS:

Yes, sir, they were.

ANDREW GARBARINO:

Mr. Scott.

RODNEY SCOTT:

For CBP, they were as well.

ANDREW GARBARINO:

Thank you very much. We're obviously concerned about officer safety and have seen and heard about increasing threats and assaults against law enforcement. Director Lyons, are your officers trained regarding the difference between a protected protest and what is unlawfully impeding law enforcement?

TODD LYONS:

Yes, sir. Deportation officers and special agents are taught at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center. They are taught in defensive tactics, personal safety, but as well as, you know, laws to include 1st, 2nd, 4th, 10th, 14th Amendment. The officers are trained before they go out into the field and then while they're in the field.

They are specialized training with disturbance control and other special tactics.

ANDREW GARBARINO:

Commissioner Scott, are your officers similarly trained?

RODNEY SCOTT:

Yes, they are. At FLETC, ongoing training in the field and then anytime we're deploying them to the interior, they get updated law -- law -- refresher training to include First Amendment and Fourth Amendment.

ANDREW GARBARINO:

So, I want to -- I want to focus on the training here because with the historic investment in both ICE and CBP, there was a surge in hiring. Uh, for -- I need to know, for these new hires, is the training different than what, uh, other agents and officers received before the hiring surge? Mr. Lyons, I'll let you start there.

TODD LYONS:

No, sir, it's not. The training was never -- the meat of the training was never removed. The timeline was. We took training from five days a week, eight hours a day to six days a week, 12 hours a day. In addition to that, training is different in the fact that before officers even go to the federal law Enforcement Training Academy, there's pre-employment training which we never had before.

And on top of that, we've adapted our on the job training program, which is much like a city or state, uh, field training officer program that once they are removed from the federal Law Enforcement Training Academy have graduated before they returned to their field offices, they're assigned a field training officer and that continued on after that.

ANDREW GARBARINO:

So, let me get this. For ICE officers, the curriculum has stayed the same, but it's now a quicker training. The timeline has moved up?

TODD LYONS:

That's correct, sir.

ANDREW GARBARINO:

OK. But the curriculum is the same?

TODD LYONS:

Yes, sir.

ANDREW GARBARINO:

All right. Um, Commissioner Scott, can you talk about if there's been a change in training since, uh, the hiring surge?

RODNEY SCOTT:

There's been no change in the training within Customs and Border Protection. Border patrol agents go through 117-day academy. The CBP officers go through 103-day academy. That's actually training days. There's been no changes to that. The only change that has been made is in our quarterly training, we've added scenarios based on what we most likely think they will encounter in the field.

So, we've encountered some of -- we've actually added some of the protest type encounters as well.

ANDREW GARBARINO:

So, there's been no change in the timeline either, it's similar to ICE? Did that -- you did not --

RODNEY SCOTT:

No, we did not.

ANDREW GARBARINO:

OK. Um, and while this is nothing -- well, because I'm -- this is my last question, I'm sure. While understanding there are not suitable verifications, every occasion, there's been a lot of talk about the use of deadly force. Uh, are agents and officers equipped with and trained in the use of tasers or other less lethal alternatives to avoid the use of deadly force?

And Mr. -- Director Lyons, I'll start with you and then Mr. Scott, you can finish.

TODD LYONS:

Yes, sir. Every deportation officer special agent are trained in secretary -- secondary weapons, which include the taser, OC spray and baton.

ANDREW GARBARINO:

They're trained --

TODD LYONS:

Those are made available.

ANDREW GARBARINO:

And they're equipped?

TODD LYONS:

Yes, sir.

ANDREW GARBARINO:

Mr. Scott?

RODNEY SCOTT:

It's a similar answer that all of our agents have to carry a secondary weapon. They trained at the academy and then they go through quarterly refresher training every three months.

ANDREW GARBARINO:

OK, I appreciate it. I will have, I'm sure, for some follow up questions today. Um, and I will submit those, uh, to you in writing. But with that, I yield back. And I now recognize the ranking member for five minutes of questions.

BENNIE THOMPSON:

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Lyons, how many ICE agents have cameras as of today?

TODD LYONS:

Sir, as of today, more than 3,000 ICE officers have cameras that are active in the field with another 6,000 being deployed, sir.

BENNIE THOMPSON:

So, how many in the field? How many ICE agents are in the field as of today?

TODD LYONS:

Oh, I'm sorry, sir. Agents in the field today?

BENNIE THOMPSON:

You said agents in the field. I'm just trying to get the number of ICE agents who have cameras on their body as of today.

TODD LYONS:

Approximately 3,000, sir.

BENNIE THOMPSON:

3,000 out of how many?

TODD LYONS:

Out of 13 -- approximately 13,000, sir, that are in the field.

BENNIE THOMPSON:

So, you have 3,000 out of 13,000 who have cameras?

TODD LYONS:

Yes, sir.

BENNIE THOMPSON:

Mr. Scott?

RODNEY SCOTT:

I don't have the actual number in front of me right now. It's about 10,000. We're building that program out as we speak.

BENNIE THOMPSON:

10,000 out of how many?

RODNEY SCOTT:

Out of about 67,000. But there --

BENNIE THOMPSON:

Out of --

RODNEY SCOTT:

-- the ports of entry, we have significant video.

BENNIE THOMPSON:

No. No, no, I don't want to go to ports of entry. I just want to know how many cameras right now do you have on your agents?

RODNEY SCOTT:

When you say agents, border patrol agents, there's about 10,000.

BENNIE THOMPSON:

10,000 out -- 10,000 out of how many?

RODNEY SCOTT:

Out of 20,000 Border Patrol agents.

BENNIE THOMPSON:

So, half of them?

RODNEY SCOTT:

Approximately, yes.

BENNIE THOMPSON:

So, I'll give you a chance to look at that since you said approximately and get back to the committee on what's the accurate number. Not how many you're purchasing, how many as of this day.

RODNEY SCOTT:

Understood and I will get you that number.

BENNIE THOMPSON:

Thank you. Uh, Mr. Lyons, what's the regular timetable of training an ICE agent?

TODD LYONS:

Right now, sir -- sorry about that, sir. Right now the training is approximately 47 days at the Federal Law Enforcement Academy. Overall training is about three months, sir.

BENNIE THOMPSON:

So, you went from three months to 47 days.

TODD LYONS:

No, no. Sir, the whole total training to include the pre-employment training and then the OJT program is three months, and 47 days in the law enforcement -- Federal Law Enforcement Training Academy.

BENNIE THOMPSON:

So, they go to FLETC for 47 days or for three months?

TODD LYONS:

No, sir. You asked for the total training time. The total training time now is a combined three months, sir, with 47 days at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Academy.

BENNIE THOMPSON:

So, you didn't reduce the timeline for any ICE agents to come on board?

TODD LYONS:

We reduced the timeline for the previous certified federal law enforcement officers or special agents where we went to the ones who are already trained in firearms and defensive tactics and criminal procedure. We adapted to a shorter program so they would just have the extensive Immigration Nationality Act training, immigration law and ICE specific training.

BENNIE THOMPSON:

So, if you hired somebody for ICE today, how much training would they receive before they become a full time agent?

TODD LYONS:

So for a -- a person off the street who has never been a law enforcement officer, they're looking at approximately three months of training, sir.

BENNIE THOMPSON:

And the 47 days is for who?

TODD LYONS:

That is for everyone that hasn't, uh -- who's never worked for ICE, sir. So, you could have someone that's a Capitol Police officer, they would not have to go through extended training for when it comes to defensive tactics, firearms, etc. They would have to go through the rigorous immigration training which unfortunately immigration law is just as confusing as long as tax code which we have to ensure that we devote that extensive time to.

BENNIE THOMPSON:

Thank you so much, but --

TODD LYONS:

Yes, sir.

BENNIE THOMPSON:

Would you provide the committee, uh, with the timeline?

TODD LYONS:

Yes, sir. We will provide you --

BENNIE THOMPSON:

Some of us understand it's 47 days.

TODD LYONS:

Yes, sir. We will provide you --

BENNIE THOMPSON:

You're telling us it's three months.

TODD LYONS:

From the beginning, sir, when they go ahead and come on pre-employment training to the OJT program afterwards. But we will provide the committee with a full breakdown.

BENNIE THOMPSON:

OK. Uh, for Mr. Lyons and Mr. Scott, over the past several weeks, the president has made a series of comments regarding the midterm election. Uh, the president, has urged my Republican colleagues in Congress to nationalize elections. Now, are you involved in any planning on guarding precincts in this country as of today?

Mr. Scott?

RODNEY SCOTT:

No, sir.

BENNIE THOMPSON:

Mr. Lyons?

TODD LYONS:

No, sir.

BENNIE THOMPSON:

So, there's no information? You've not been asked to start deploying people for areas anywhere?

TODD LYONS:

No, sir.

BENNIE THOMPSON:

Well, thank you very much. Uh, Mr. Lyons, um, I'll get it in writing, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to follow you -- your directions on this.

ANDREW GARBARINO:

Uh, gentleman, yields back. Thank you, ranking member. Uh, I now recognize the gentleman from Texas, Mr. McCaul, for five minutes of questions.

MICHAEL MCCAUL:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Uh, you know, a decade ago when I chaired this committee, Mr. Thompson and I passed a bill to authorize ICE into law. It was a bipartisan effort. It passed the House overwhelmingly, both Republican and Democrat. A decade later, here we are. The Dems have called to abolish ICE. Now they're trying to shut it down.

So, what has happened in that ten years? Let's go back to the last five -- four to five years, what happened in this country and at the border? As a -- someone who lives in a border state of Texas, we saw the most dangerous wide open border that I've seen in my 22 years in Congress. Ten to 12 million people, and that's what we know about, I think it's far greater, came into this country.

Many of them dangerous violent criminals, some known or suspected terrorists, which I find extremely dangerous. That's why I served as an impeachment manager for Mayorkas because he violated federal law. The federal statute says, as a former federal prosecutor I know this, shall detain aggravated felons.

What did Mayorkas do? He told his agents that's discretionary, you can release them. As a result, we had tens of thousands of aggravated felons left on the streets of America to roam freely. Not to -- to mention the human and sex trafficking of children, Mr. Lyons as you pointed out. So, what is the administration trying to do? They're trying to remove a public safety threat from the United States of America.

That is their job. Restoring public safety should be the number one priority. And one of the problems here as I examine it, is that Minnesota, Minneapolis in particular, is a sanctuary city. What does that mean? That means that it's a magnet for illegal -- they're protected under the current situation because the state and locals will not cooperate with federal law enforcement.

In fact, Mr. Lyons, is it not true that they were not honoring ICE detainers that were put on dangerous felons in prisons so that you could remove them from the United States?

TODD LYONS:

That is correct, sir. The detainers were -- were not honored at the local level in Minneapolis.

MICHAEL MCCAUL:

This is the number one violation. In addition, the rhetoric on the left led to over 1,000 percent increase in assaults on ICE officers, an increase of over 8,000, uh, death threats to them. All of this created a perfect storm for our officers being thrown into this situation. And then Agent Bovino came into the picture, and I would argue, in fairness, that he escalated the situation by the way that was handled.

Your officers are not trained to effectuate crowd control. They are trained to move in, surgically go in and remove these dangerous violent criminals from the United States of America. I've called for de-escalation after the two deaths, the two shootings that took place. I believe that these roving patrols should be done at the border rather than in the major cities of the United States.

So, when the president decided to remove Agent Bovino and put in Tom Homan, who I've known for years, a consummate professional, law enforcement professional, I commended the president. And what has been done since Mr. Homan came into the job? We now have targeted law enforcement operations. He is returning to the original mission of ICE. He is working with state and locals to do the crowd control, he is getting them to honor the ICE detainers.

He is also getting the body cameras put on them and the roving patrols in his words to me should be done at the border, not in major cities. My question to you, Mr. Lyons, is Mr. Homan now are his operations in Minneapolis now bringing the situation under control?

TODD LYONS:

So, we've seen a de-escalation in the fact that the protests, while they still go on, have subsided and ICE has been allowed to do their targeted intelligence driven enforcement operation. Just the other night local authorities arrested 54 protesters at the local level where ICE officers did not have to be engaged in that.

MICHAEL MCCAUL:

My final question to you, do you believe the model that Mr. Homan is now setting in Minneapolis should be a model for the nation?

ANDREW GARBARINO:

The gentleman's time is expired.

MICHAEL MCCAUL:

If I -- allow the witness to answer.

ANDREW GARBARINO:

I -- I understand that, but I'm holding --

MICHAEL MCCAUL:

I like on the record an answer, Mr. Chairman. Do you agree that Mr. Homan's model is one for the nation?

ANDREW GARBARINO:

Gentleman's time has expired.

MICHAEL MCCAUL:

Yes or no?

ANDREW GARBARINO:

I now recognize the gentleman from California, Mr. Swalwell, for five minutes.

ERIC SWALWELL:

A couple nights ago, I met with a woman who works as a cashier at a grocery store and I told her I was coming to see you, Mr. Lyons, and she said, will you ask him -- and she didn't want to give her name. She was terrified to give her name. But she said when I get off my shift

around midnight and I walk through the parking lot to my car, she said if somebody rolls up in an unidentified van and gets out wearing all black and their faces covered and they don't have any identification and they asked me to get into the van, how do I know who they are?

How does she know, Mr. Lyons? How does she know if they're an ICE agent or bad guys?

TODD LYONS:

Sir, ICE agents have identifiable placards on their uniforms as well as their badges, representative. But you won't see ICE agents rolling through the parking lots and just snatching someone up. ICE does intelligence driven, targeted enforcement operations.

ERIC SWALWELL:

Well, Mr. Homan and others have said that they target individuals based on the color of their skin and the accents that they speak. And that's why people are running through the fields and factories where they work. Director Lyons, last year, you said in Phoenix at the Border Security Expo that you wanted to see a deportation process that was like quote, "Amazon Prime but with human beings." Mr. Lyons, how many times has Amazon Prime shot a mom three times in the face?

TODD LYONS:

None, sir. But you're also --

ERIC SWALWELL:

it's the square root of zero, that's right.

TODD LYONS:

Yes, sir. Yeah, but if -- if we're going to go down that route of my comment, I did say that comment, however, that comment was taken out. If you go back and watch the video, I did say that we need to be more efficient when it comes to removing individuals from the United States because ICE doesn't detain punitively, we detain to remove.

I don't want to see people in custody. At the end of my statement was, and again to your point, it was a industry day for AI and efficiencies, but I did say at the end of it, but we deal with human beings so we can't be like them.

ERIC SWALWELL:

And --

TODD LYONS:

That's the key part that you're leaving out.

ERIC SWALWELL:

Well, speaking of human beings, how many times has Amazon Prime shot a nurse 10 times in the back?

TODD LYONS:

None.

ERIC SWALWELL:

How many times has Amazon Prime dragged a woman out of her car by her hair and then dragged her down the street?

TODD LYONS:

None.

ERIC SWALWELL:

How many ICE agents have been fired for their conduct under your leadership?

TODD LYONS:

Sir, I -- I can get you that data. I'll get that back to you.

ERIC SWALWELL:

Is it more than one?

TODD LYONS:

I'm not going to speak about personnel actions, but I'll get you that data.

ERIC SWALWELL:

Can you tell us if at least, God -- I hope at least one person has been fired for their conduct since these operations have begun? Are you telling us you can't even say one person's been fired?

TODD LYONS:

Sir, I'm not going to talk about personnel actions. But we will get back to you.

ERIC SWALWELL:

But two people have been killed so far, is that right? A nurse named Pretti and a mom named Good. Two people have been killed so far.

TODD LYONS:

Yes, sir.

ERIC SWALWELL:

Mr. Lyons, will you apologize to the family of Renee Good for being called a domestic terrorist by the president and his leadership?

TODD LYONS:

No, sir.

ERIC SWALWELL:

Why not?

TODD LYONS:

Sir, I welcome the opportunity to speak to the family in private, but I'm not going to comment on any active investigation.

ERIC SWALWELL:

Is she a domestic terrorist?

TODD LYONS:

Sir, I'm not going to comment on the investigation and the president and Secretary Noem are elected officials, that's their right to their comments. But as law enforcement, career law enforcement, we won't speak to any.

ERIC SWALWELL:

Do you agree with their comments?

TODD LYONS:

Sir, I'm not going to go ahead and talk about any ongoing investigation.

ERIC SWALWELL:

Will you apologize to the family of Alex Pretti for also being called a domestic terrorist?

TODD LYONS:

Sir, again, I'm not going to speak to any ongoing investigation.

ERIC SWALWELL:

Mr. Lyons, you're staying to lead ICE is a decision.

TODD LYONS:

Sir. I'm sorry?

ERIC SWALWELL:

You're staying on to lead ICE is a decision. And I've read your background. You have a decorated career. You've served in the military. You are what I would call otherwise employable. I think most people would agree this is not the only job that you can get. But since you've been on this job, women have been dragged by their hair through our streets.

A six-year-old child battling Stage IV cancer has been deported and it turns out he was a US citizen. People are running through the fields where they work. People who've gone to the streets as allies, have been shot and publicly executed. It's a decision to stay on at this point. And considering your honorable service in the past and the dishonorable acts that those who have worked for you have conducted

and the disgraceful statements that the leadership above you have said, you now have a decision.

Will you stand with the kids who you're supposed to protect or will you side with the killers bringing terror to our streets? Mr. Lyons, will you resign from ICE?

TODD LYONS:

No, sir. I won't.

ERIC SWALWELL:

Why not?

TODD LYONS:

Because sir, that child that you're showing right there, the men and women of ICE took care of him when his father abandoned him in law enforcement --

ANDREW GARBARINO:

The gentleman's time has expired.

ERIC SWALWELL:

He never should have gone into custody.

ANDREW GARBARINO:

The gentleman's time has expired. I recognize the gentleman from Mississippi, Mr. Guest, for five minutes.

MICHAEL GUEST:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we stand on the verge of a second Democrat shutdown of the United States Department of Homeland Security, just within the last 90 days. The Department of Homeland Security employs 260,000 men and women across 22 different agencies. Those agencies include 63,000 men and women who work for CBP, 60,000 who work for TSA, 22,000 for FEMA, 18,000 who works for USCIS, almost 50,000 civilian and military employees with the United States Coast Guard, 7,800 Secret Service employees, 2,500 CISA employees and over 8,000 agents and analysts with the Department of Homeland Security Investigation who perform a crucial function, a crucial function to protect and serve this country.

This second government shutdown led by my friends on the Democrat side of the aisle will leave our country less safe. Don't just take my word for it, let's look at the words of the Biden Administration. President Biden and Kamala Harris, Department of Homeland Security, in September of 2023, as the nation faced a potential government shutdown, they issued a fact sheet.

That fact sheet is entitled: The Impact of Government Shutdown on the DHS workforce. This fact sheet says this, it says DHS workforce is comprised of extraordinary public servants who safeguard this nation. It goes on to say any lapse in federal funding would disrupt this vital work, leaving Americans less safe as a result.

Those working without pay include law enforcement, conducting such acts as seizing illegal narcotics like fentanyl, combating child exploitation and child predators, identify and arresting human trafficking, responding to natural disasters, preventing -- preventing cyberattacks and protecting -- protecting US government leaders.

And so, I ask you gentlemen as we are once again on the verge of a shutdown of the Department of Homeland Security, if the Democrats take us to the edge, if they refuse to sign a CR, if once again the men and women who serve under your leadership, if they are once again not paid, I ask you how will that impact our nation?

Will America be more safe or will America be less safe if we are once again led into a government shutdown by the Democrat party? Mr. Scott?

RODNEY SCOTT:

I believe consistency in seeing support from the leadership of -- on both sides of this building and the president is very important to border security. I think the rhetoric and the back and forth, the politicizing -- the politicizing of law enforcement in general detracts from the general morale of our personnel.

MICHAEL GUEST:

Is it not important that we pay the men and women who serve under your command?

RODNEY SCOTT:

It's critically important.

MICHAEL GUEST:

And in a government shutdown, the bills don't stop, do they? Not -- the bills continue to -- to -- to accrue?

RODNEY SCOTT:

Correct.

MICHAEL GUEST:

And the -- the deployment of technology ceases in many cases and America becomes less safe. Would you agree with that statement?

RODNEY SCOTT:

I would agree, America becomes less safe.

MICHAEL GUEST:

Mr. Edlow, what about you?

JOSEPH EDLOW:

Well, congressman, as I'm sure you're aware, USCIS is a little different in that we are fee funded. So, during a shutdown, the men and women working for USCIS will continue to be paid. However, in terms of our screening and vetting enterprises as well as everything else we do, we form very -- we have formed very, very strong working relationships with the other components and that's critical for us to be able to do our work.

While we may be they're able to continue without our partners being paid and with them being furloughed, it's going to make America significantly less safe.

MICHAEL GUEST:

And Mr. Lyons?

TODD LYONS:

Yes, sir, it will have a great impact, especially on the Homeland Security task forces and the men and women that are focused on the

transnational crime and foreign terrorist organization.

MICHAEL GUEST:

Mr. Lyons, very quickly. We've had many members of this committee who have made allegations that Democrats have once again taken the mantle of the party to defund the police and abolish ICE. Do you wish to take my last few seconds to speak about the consequences that has on the men and women that you serve?

TODD LYONS:

The men and women of ICE are sworn law enforcement officers who are dedicated to the mission of protecting the United States.

MICHAEL GUEST:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I yield back.

ANDREW GARBARINO:

Gentleman, yields back. I now recognize the gentleman from California, Mr. Correa, for five minutes of questions.

LOU CORREA:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to welcome our witnesses today. Gentlemen, I wanted to start out by talking a little bit about my district, Southern California, Disneyland. Southern California is the center of manufacturing for the United States. California, biggest act state and union. California, also big donor, taxpayer dollars to the United States.

President Trump got elected on the promise to deport the worst of the worst. Your numbers, Mr. Lyons, less than 14 percent of those

arrested by ICE first year, 2025, had charges or convictions of violent -- violence. 70 percent of those deported had not even a traffic ticket. Mr. Lyons, I think we're all patriots, but I'm trying to figure out how -- This is a question to you, sir.

How deporting a nanny makes our nation safer, stronger? How trying to deport the father of three marines make this country stronger? How deporting the parents of a number of Marines at Camp Pendleton makes this nation stronger?

TODD LYONS:

Sir, thank you for your welcome, first off. Just to address your, uh -- the numbers with the 14 percent, sir, that's 14 percent that are listed as violent criminal felonies. However, what's left out of that is the fact that what's left off that list --

LOU CORREA:

Those 70 percent that don't have a traffic ticket and deported, how has that made our nation stronger?

TODD LYONS:

Sir, if you look at what ICE has done, more than 60 percent of every individual that is in ICE custody has a pending or conviction on a criminal charge, not to count --

LOU CORREA:

Sir, let me move ahead. I only have three minutes and we'll talk later. Let's talk about American citizens. Again, back home, people, young people asking me what do I have to carry with me so I won't be

deported? Is -- Mr. Lyons carrying a passport, is that enough so they won't be detained or deported in my district?

TODD LYONS:

Sir, an American citizen shouldn't carry or shouldn't feel the need to carry --

LOU CORREA:

Let me tell you what some of your ICE agents have done. They pulled over a gentleman in a pickup truck, showed his passport, they threw it to the side, detained him. What do we have to do to show that we're American citizens?

TODD LYONS:

Sir, no American citizen falls under Title 8. No American citizen will be arrested for being an American citizen.

LOU CORREA:

But you just said to my colleague, that nobody has been fired because of violations of the law for disciplinary actions. Yet, this is happening in my district. Mr. Lyons, we're a very boring district, we work hard, mind our own business. ICE in our streets now. People are terrorized, American citizens. Number of cases of Americans being detained, being taken in, some being held for five days.

Sir, what do we do with those people in that situation? What do we tell them?

TODD LYONS:

Sir, I don't know of any particular case that you're speaking of
American citizen being --

LOU CORREA:

I'm more than happy to provide you a list, sir.

TODD LYONS:

One hundred percent, sir.

LOU CORREA:

So, let me ask you, sir, are you surveilling US citizens today?

TODD LYONS:

No, sir.

LOU CORREA:

Those people protesting, practicing their First Amendment right,
photos of them, data taken -- they're not being placed in any kind of a
database?

TODD LYONS:

There is no database for protesters, sir.

LOU CORREA:

One of your officers in Maine said to one of the individuals protesting,
we're going to put your face in a little database. What does that mean?
Do you have a database of Americans?

TODD LYONS:

No, sir. No, sir, we don't.

LOU CORREA:

Then what do you think your ICE agent was doing to this individual when he said those statements?

TODD LYONS:

I can't speak for that individual, sir, but I can assure you there is no database that's tracking United States citizens.

LOU CORREA:

Sir, California, we're a sanctuary state. Does that cause you a problem picking up individuals?

TODD LYONS:

Yes, sir.

LOU CORREA:

I have with me today some data from Sheriff Barnes, Orange County sheriff. Very good friend. He's been here to testify numerous times. For 2025, he referred about 300 individuals for your office to pick up. 250 were picked up, 50 were never picked up. We had a long conversation saying what is going on? If these are the worst of the worst, you've called ICE to pick them up and you didn't pick them up. Can you explain to us why you didn't pick up all these individuals that were referred to your office to pick up?

TODD LYONS:

Yes, sir, that's a key -- part of that is the referral. We make sure that those individuals are eligible to be placed in detention and for removability. So in that case --

LOU CORREA:

You never even looked -- those individuals.

ANDREW GARBARINO:

The gentleman's time's expired.

LOU CORREA:

I would like to talk to you about this issue later on Mr. Lyons. Thank you very much.

ANDREW GARBARINO:

The gentleman's time has expired. I know recognize the gentleman from Texas, Mr. Pfluger, for five minutes of questions.

AUGUST PFLUGER:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Um, why are we here? And I think it's pretty clear that until proven otherwise at five years of experience that it seems like one side of the aisle is in favor of open borders and wants to abolish ICE. And I hope that that can be proven wrong and the other side of the aisle wants to enforce the laws that are on the books.

Um, Commissioner Scott, how many administrations have you worked for in your career?

RODNEY SCOTT:

Uh, since the Clinton Administration.

AUGUST PFLUGER:

So, multiple Republicans and multiple Democrats?

RODNEY SCOTT:

Correct?

AUGUST PFLUGER:

Is it a crime to enter this country illegally and to skip a notice to appear, to skip a court ordered appearance, and to not comply with the laws that, uh, that -- that are on the books?

RODNEY SCOTT:

Yes, sir.

AUGUST PFLUGER:

Has that changed since you started working for President Clinton?

RODNEY SCOTT:

No.

AUGUST PFLUGER:

So, I can't imagine -- establishing the fact that it is a crime to skip a notice to appear, we had 10 to 12 million people who entered this country illegally in the Biden Administration as a conservative estimate. There are sanctuary cities all throughout the United States who have said we will not comply with federal laws.

That's why we're here today. I can't imagine being a DHS officer and ICE officer and being threatened with violence, having death threats,

being doxed, having your family identified, putting that on the Internet and violently telling you that they are going to kill you because you are enforcing the laws that are on the books that were passed by both sides of the aisle in this body.

Director Lyons, how many of your agents are being doxed, threatened or harassed?

TODD LYONS:

We've had over an 8,000 percent increase on death threats.

AUGUST PFLUGER:

You know, I'm in the middle of working a bipartisan domestic terrorism working group with another member on this committee. There is a group called Defend 612 that has come out with tactics, techniques and procedures in Minneapolis to do things like encourage protesters to impede law enforcement, to push civilians towards legally and physically risky confrontations, to help mobilize a counter-protest, to coordinate strategies and trainings to aid eliminate -- illegal immigrants to avoid detention.

Are you familiar with groups like this, Defend 612?

TODD LYONS:

Yes, sir. We have multiple groups around that in all 50 states.

AUGUST PFLUGER:

There's an article written by Christina Buttons and I'd like unanimous consent to enter this into the record called: Inside Minneapolis' ICE Watch Network. Chairman, I seek unanimous consent to enter --

ANDREW GARBARINO:

Without objection.

AUGUST PFLUGER:

This article talks about these tactics, techniques and procedures that put your law enforcement agents and your agents at risk. What is different about Minneapolis? What kind of coordination have you received from the local police department that we don't see any of this in Texas? We've not seen -- and there have been many ICE operations that have happened in Texas.

But what's different from what you've seen in Minneapolis?

TODD LYONS:

Unfortunately, sir, at the beginning of the Minneapolis operation, we didn't see any cooperation at the state or local level, whether it be from the Minneapolis Police Department or the Minnesota State Police, which led to ICE officers and agents, as well as our other federal partners, pretty much having to defend themselves from whatever impediment, riots or protests.

AUGUST PFLUGER:

Were they told by local elected officials not to cooperate?

TODD LYONS:

Yes, sir.

AUGUST PFLUGER:

Is that because they're a sanctuary city?

TODD LYONS:

I am assuming that's what it is, sir, but I can't speak to the mind of those elected officials. But they were ordered not to -- to stand down.

AUGUST PFLUGER:

How did it make you feel as somebody who carries out the laws that this body has passed when you hear the mayor of Minneapolis say F ICE?

TODD LYONS:

Well, sir, it's -- I mean from a morale standpoint, it hurts us to the fact that for decades, and I've worked since President Bush, ICE has always been in Minneapolis. We've always been in every major city and state. So, it wasn't like it was a brand new thing. We've always been doing immigration enforcement.

So, that's demoralizing.

AUGUST PFLUGER:

Commissioner Scott, are you separating families?

RODNEY SCOTT:

No.

AUGUST PFLUGER:

Um, tell me about when you served President Obama? Has anything changed in the policy of deportation? And how many people did President Obama deport?

RODNEY SCOTT:

I don't have that number in front of me. Policies and how things are enforced do change. The laws have not changed. I believe what you're referring to is literally when someone is arrested, whether it's on immigration or whether it's a normal criminal offense and they have children, we don't necessarily prosecute the children.

But when someone's deported, if they want to take their children with them, they have that right. We do not separate them.

AUGUST PFLUGER:

I hope that the other side of the aisle will read this article on Defend 612 and look at the tactics, techniques and procedures. And if this is domestic terrorism where we have a group that's on signal that is calling out agents and doing things to interrupt, intercede and prevent law enforcement from carrying out the laws that this body passed, that you'll have the courage to call it domestic terrorism -- terrorism, if it is that way.

And I yield back.

ANDREW GARBARINO:

Gentleman, yields back. And I now recognize the gentleman from Michigan, Mr. Thanedar, for five minutes of questions.

SHRI THANEDAR:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and good morning to our witnesses. Commissioner Scott, did the ICU nurse, Alex Pretti, deserved to die?

RODNEY SCOTT:

I cannot comment on an ongoing investigation, sir.

SHRI THANEDAR:

Do you believe that he deserved to die, should he be killed by your agents?

RODNEY SCOTT:

I'm not going to comment on an ongoing investigation, sir, before it's concluded and all the facts are available.

SHRI THANEDAR:

Do you agree with CBP, Commander Bovino's statement that Alex Pretti was planning to massacre law enforcement agents?

RODNEY SCOTT:

I'm not going to comment on an ongoing investigation, sir.

SHRI THANEDAR:

Director Lyons, did Renee Good deserve to die?

TODD LYONS:

Sir, I can't comment on ongoing investigations.

SHRI THANEDAR:

Director Lyons, do you agree with Secretary Noem and Vice President Vance's characterization of Renee Good as a domestic terrorist?

TODD LYONS:

Sir, I can't speak to their comments as they are their own. But as an ongoing investigation, I can't speak to that.

SHRI THANEDAR:

Director Lyons, what did your agents mean when he said you raise your voice, I erase your voice, in the video just that we have seen all of us have seen?

TODD LYONS:

Sir, I'm not aware of that video that you have, sir. I can't comment on what that officer said.

SHRI THANEDAR:

Does that statement -- f that statement, if I show you the video of that, does that statement reflect the value of your agency? And does ICE respect and adhere to the First Amendment?

TODD LYONS:

Yes, sir, ICE does respect and refer to the First Amendment, but that doesn't respect that -- your statement that you said doesn't represent the values of the men and women of ICE.

SHRI THANEDAR:

Commissioner Scott, does CBP respect and adhere to the First and Second Amendment?

RODNEY SCOTT:

Yes, we do.

SHRI THANEDAR:

Don't you agree that Alex Pretti had every right to exercise his First and Second Amendment freedoms before being shot in the streets by one of your agents?

RODNEY SCOTT:

I believe every person in the United States has a right to their constitutional rights.

SHRI THANEDAR:

Look, I have heard and seen enough. I'm just sick and tired of your agents running around in our cities, in our streets, causing illegal activities. ICE and CBP thugs are roaming our streets, attacking our communities, using our children as bait, referring to people as bodies and numbers, targeting people for their accents and the color of their skin.

And killing American citizens all while showing zero remorse for their actions. Director Lyons and Commissioner Scott, do you think President Trump will pardon you and your boss Kristi Noem before he leaves office just like he has for insurrectionist and his political allies? Do you believe President Trump will pardon you because -- Go ahead.

RODNEY SCOTT:

I'm not going to speak on behalf of President Trump, but I'll tell you, I signed up for this job to protect America and I'm very proud of the service that I provide and I don't need a pardon from anybody.

SHRI THANEDAR:

Well, you better hope so. You better hope you get been pardoned because you will be held accountable for the absolute disregard of the law your agencies have shown over the past year. Your agencies have lost the trust of the American people with millions taking to the streets to protect the illegal actions of your agencies.

And that's why I introduced a bill in the United States Congress to abolish ICE. ICE must be abolished. I also co-sponsored a bill to impeach Secretary Kristi Noem. And I believe Kristi Noem must be impeached and this Congress must do everything in its power to carry out oversight actions against these rogues departments including --

ANDREW GARBARINO:

The gentleman's time has expired. A witness has requested a break. The committee will recess for five minutes. Members of the audience will remain seated.

[Recess]

Committee will come to order. I now recognize the gentleman from Texas, Mr. Gonzales, for five minutes of questions.

TONY GONZALES:

Thank you, chairman, and thank you, gentlemen, for your service to our great country. Uh, I was speaking to, uh, some agents that were deployed from Texas to Minnesota, just asking for the ground truth of what was happening. And one of the things that stood out to me is one of the agents said, Tony, it reminds me a lot of Fallujah.

Having someone that served in Fallujah, that caught my attention. And so, my question first is to you, Commissioner Scott, is on the safety of our agents. Um, in particular, I see that these task forces

work, these anti-gang, these anti-terrorism task forces. But thinking of Fallujah, it reminds me of -- we were fighting a war that was the Persian Gulf when -- when the world had changed.

And so, my question is, is there a way we can protect our law enforcement -- uh, our federal law enforcement agents? In particular, uh, through -- I've got a bill in particular through bulletproof glass or ballistic -- ballistic, uh, windshields. Is that something you think that could help protect the uh, the law enforcement officers that are on the front lines?

RODNEY SCOTT:

I think that can help protect the officers on the front lines, but it goes much farther than that because things have changed. So, the tactical infrastructure at the border, the bulletproof vests, all of that, that helps tremendously. But we're fighting a different fight now. The reason you saw so many people surged into LA at one point and then now into Minneapolis was because we had to surge additional resources into protect the ICE agents that were literally just going to try to make a lawful arrest.

So, we had to put in two teams, one to do the arrest and another one to deal with the protesters. Luckily, CBP -- well, not luckily, unfortunately, CBPs had to build out this capability over the years because we had been dealing with increased protests at the border, mass incursions. So, we trained our people how to do crowd control.

But let's not miss the fact that we have coordinated, well-funded, and I think insurgencies or terrorist organizations, however you want to call it, literally trying to prevent legal laws from being enforced in the United States. That is a dramatic change. That's why we've had to

shift. So, we got to figure out how to protect our officers and agents more holistically on social media.

How do we keep them from being doxed? when somebody goes to like they did to Director Lyons, they follow his kid home and then have protests in his front yard and then put it out live on video. That needs to be a crime. I don't want to violate anybody's right to free speech, but going into your front yard and harassing your family just because you're a law enforcement officer, that should not be a protected action.

TONY GONZALES:

The world is changing and we need to change with it to make sure our federal law enforcement officers and their families are protected. My next question is for Director Lyons. Body cameras have been deployed in Minnesota. I think transparency helps regain public trust. Is there any plan to release any of the footage to the public?

TODD LYONS:

One hundred percent, sir. That's one thing that I'm committed to is full transparency and I fully welcome body cameras all across the spectrum in all of our law enforcement activities. Yes, sir, body cam footage will be released.

TONY GONZALES:

I agree with you completely. Everyone assumes this body camera footage is bad footage. In so many cases, it's the exact opposite and we get a show from the officer's lens what exactly they're dealing with on a -- on a daily basis, not just a 15 second clip we see on TikTok or

whatever it may be. I'm very pleased to hear the releasing of more public footage.

My next question is for you, Commissioner Scott. As a member of Congress, I have a very simple -- all of us, the question is really for all of us. As a member of Congress, what can I do to make sure what happened in Minnesota doesn't happen in my community?

RODNEY SCOTT:

Put laws in place that protect our officers and agents so they can go out and do their job confidently and know they really truly have the backing. And then I got to plug it, actually fund the programs. So, when body cameras got rolled out to CBP, the technical capability the camera got rolled out, but the funding for the personnel to support the programs and the data that is -- that can drain basically all your other operations.

So, fund the entire program so that we can be transparent and that we can make sure America knows what we're doing because that trust is - is critically important.

TONY GONZALES:

Thank you for that. My next question is Director Edlow. Uh, too many times we talk about the enforcement side, which I think is very important. We see the millions of criminal aliens that are loose in our country. We got to go out there and keep our communities safe, but we need to be talking more about the legal aspect of it, the people that are doing it the right way.

I was very encouraged to see 65,000 visas get released, not too -- not too long ago. The question I have is, what are the details? What is the

timeline behind that? What is the purpose of those? Can you -- can you specifically speak to the legal visa process?

JOSEPH EDLOW:

Well, if you're referring to the 65,000 that were the supplemental H-2B --

TONY GONZALES:

Yes. Exactly right.

JOSEPH EDLOW:

That's a -- there's 60,000 or 65,000 -- 66,000, excuse me, that go out every year at two times in the year. And then Congress has, for many, many years, given the department the authority through the secretary to increase that based on the needs of the country. Uh, so that -- uh, that those visas were released.

I don't remember exactly when the --

ANDREW GARBARINO:

Gentleman's time is expired. I apologize. And again, any questions -- I know I'm being tight on the rules. We have to be, uh, there's a lot of questions we want to get through everything today. Any -- members will be able to submit questions in writing and you can detail these. Um, thank you very much. I now recognize the gentleman from Rhode Island, Mr. Magaziner, for five minutes of questions.

SETH MAGAZINER:

Mr. Lyons, has ICE hired anyone who was charged with a crime related to the January 6th, riot here at the Capitol?

TODD LYONS:

Sir, I don't -- I don't have that information, but I would say no.

SETH MAGAZINER:

Would you -- if -- could you find out and please report back?

TODD LYONS:

Yes, sir, I'll get that. Take that and get back to you.

SETH MAGAZINER:

Would you hire someone who attacked police officers here on January 6, even though they were unfortunately pardoned by the president?

TODD LYONS:

Sir, we take assault on law enforcement very serious and we have a good strenuous vetting program. I'm sure that --

SETH MAGAZINER:

Thank you. Commissioner Scott, how many of your agents have been disciplined for excessive use of force over the past year?

RODNEY SCOTT:

I cannot comment on ongoing or --

SETH MAGAZINER:

I'm not asking you to comment on specific investigation. How many of your agents have been disciplined? I'm just asking for the total.

RODNEY SCOTT:

I'll get that number to you. I don't have it in front of me.

SETH MAGAZINER:

All right. I sent you a letter asking that question and haven't received a response. Will you commit to sending a response to me, please?

RODNEY SCOTT:

Yes, sir.

SETH MAGAZINER:

All right. I'd like you to view this video. [Begin Videotape]

UNKNOWN:

This is video of what appears to be pepper spray thrown by a federal agent into Rafael Veraza's car.

RAFAEL VERAZA:

You OK, mama? Are you OK?

UNKNOWN:

Seconds later, he realized his daughter, one year old Ariana, was in the back seat, also battling the chemicals.

[End Videotape]

SETH MAGAZINER:

Are you familiar with this incident?

RODNEY SCOTT:

Yes.

SETH MAGAZINER:

OK. Now, this is a family of United States citizens who were out to get groceries at a Sam's Club in Chicago. When they arrived, they could see that there was a chaotic operation in the parking lot. They turned their vehicle to leave at which point your agents sprayed pepper spray out of their vehicle and into the driver's side window of the Veraza's family vehicle.

Is it proper procedure to aim pepper spray into the window of a moving vehicle?

RODNEY SCOTT:

I'm not familiar. I don't have all the details on this. It's an ongoing investigation.

SETH MAGAZINER:

I'm not asking about this --

RODNEY SCOTT:

But to answer your specific question --

SETH MAGAZINER:

Is it proper procedure?

RODNEY SCOTT:

We try to avoid that. No, it is not proper procedure.

SETH MAGAZINER:

You try to avoid it. Because you understand it's dangerous, right? Not just for the driver, but for pedestrians, for other people who could be hit by a car if a driver is blinded, right?

RODNEY SCOTT:

I 100 percent understand that. But you're talking about intentional versus not intentional.

SETH MAGAZINER:

Well, now listen --

RODNEY SCOTT:

I've been in a vehicle in one of these situations --

SETH MAGAZINER:

Reclaiming my time. From the video, this was clearly intentional and you know as well as I do that in any other law enforcement agency, if an officer did this, they would be put on leave, investigated and likely disciplined. Were any of your agents ever investigated or disciplined for this incident?

RODNEY SCOTT:

I'll have to get back to you on this incident. I believe it's still an ongoing investigation.

SETH MAGAZINER:

So, you don't know.

RODNEY SCOTT:

But we have at least ten open cases.

SETH MAGAZINER:

I'd like to show you another video. This one is from Minneapolis.

[Begin Videotape]

UNKNOWN:

Inaudible.

[End Videotape]

SETH MAGAZINER:

So, as you can see, the agent sprayed pepper spray at close range directly into the face of an individual who had already been pinned to the ground by three other agents. And there's a picture of this behind me to give you a better view. Is this proper procedure for the use of pepper spray?

RODNEY SCOTT:

I cannot comment on that because you're only showing one piece and that subject was clearly not compliant.

SETH MAGAZINER:

Has this -- has this agent been investigated? But this is not the intended use of this -- of this weapon, correct?

RODNEY SCOTT:

The intended use is avoid -- is to try to avoid escalating. It's to de-escalate the situation.

SETH MAGAZINER:

All right. Well, he was already pinned to the ground by three other agents. I think he had been de-escalated. Is there any investigation into this agent for -- for doing this?

RODNEY SCOTT:

I'll get back to you. There are several open investigations.

SETH MAGAZINER:

All right, listen, there has been no accountability in your agency under the Trump Administration. None. Your agency has repeatedly been caught on tape using unnecessary violence against civilians and you can't even tell me if any of these agents have been investigated or disciplined. You are supposed to be making people safer and instead your agents are being unnecessarily violent.

And that is why the Trump Administration has lost the trust of the American people on immigration. Understand, it's not just the actions of the agents in the field. It is the lack of accountability from the top that has caused public trust to erode and there need to be major reforms before we vote to give any of you any more funding.

Your agencies need to act like other law enforcement agencies, take off the masks, wear badge numbers, enforce discipline with real standards of conduct. But accountability starts at the top. Kristi Noem is completely unfit and should be removed from office. And all of the operations that we just watched were overseen by Commander Gregory Bovino, who himself engaged in excessive use of force.

He even admitted that he lied to a federal judge when he claimed he had been hit by a rock prior to throwing tear gas, a tear gas canister at a crowd of civilians. But then after the footage came out and that turned out to be not true, he admitted that he had lied about it. Mr. Scott, what disciplinary action do you plan to take against Mr. Bovino?

RODNEY SCOTT:

I cannot comment on current -- I cannot comment on personnel actions on any --

SETH MAGAZINER:

Is there -- is there an investigation underway or being considered into Mr. Bovino?

RODNEY SCOTT:

Every allegation and every use of force is fully investigated with --

SETH MAGAZINER:

Well, please investigate him.

RODNEY SCOTT:

-- goes through a review board --

SETH MAGAZINER:

You need to start enforcing discipline in your agency.

ANDREW GARBARINO:

Gentleman's time has expired. I now recognize the gentleman from Alabama, Mr. Strong, for five minutes of question.

DALE STRONG:

Thank you, Chairman Garbarino, Ranking Member Thompson, and thank you to all our witnesses for being here today. Let me start with the simple facts, the border is now closed. Fentanyl poisonings are down by more than 35 percent. I thank each of you for your service to our country. I remember in April of 2023 when then Secretary Mayorkas testified, uh, before this very committee that the US border was and I quote, "Secure," close quote, and not open.

At the same time, under his leadership, illegal alien population surged to over 11 million, uh, from -- uh, they were coming from more than 160 different countries as migrants were released into our country by the millions. That's what the Biden Administration, uh, in concert with Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas did to America.

Uh, they sold America out. The consequences of their failures were predictable. When the United States failed to enforce its border, uh, the winners are not legal immigrants or American communities, it's the cartels drug, smugglers, human traffickers and violent criminals. We didn't need new laws to stop this crisis, we needed a president willing to enforce the laws already on the books.

President Trump did exactly that, another promise made, another promise kept. And today the number of illegal aliens being released into our country is zero. Zero. That's what it took a president to make the hard decisions and America is better because of it. So, my question is straightforward Commissioner Scott, was Secretary Mayorkas telling the truth when he testified before this committee that the border was secure?

RODNEY SCOTT:

Consistent with my prior testimony, no, he was not.

DALE STRONG:

As you stated earlier, the underlying immigration laws haven't fundamentally changed in decades. What has changed -- what has changed is how different administrations choose to enforce these laws, particularly during the previous administration. It was 100 percent orchestrated to allow illegal aliens to invade our country under the Biden Administration.

From an operational standpoint, how important is consistency and enforcement for deterrence and border control?

RODNEY SCOTT:

It's extremely important and we keep talking about immigration, but let me remind people, border security really is national security. The cartels use illegal immigration to literally overwhelm law enforcement at the border and bring in all kinds of other threats. It's the second wave that always is the most critical.

The interior enforcement sent a message around the world that we're not going to just let you go. It took away the marketing ability of the cartels to get people to come to the border and overwhelm law enforcement. This all works together, it's critically important because it is national security.

DALE STRONG:

Thank you, commissioner. The men and women of DHS deserve our respect and the ability to do their job effectively without mixed signals from Washington. I also want to be clear, I support the men and women who work every day to secure our borders and enforce federal

immigration laws. But lately we've seen growing strain on political rhetoric that goes beyond policy disagreement and targets the legitimacy of law enforcement itself.

Rhetoric that puts a target on the backs of agents doing their jobs. Acting Director Lyons, we keep hearing calls from left wing politicians to abolish ICE, some including -- including many who should know better, have denounced federal law enforcement as secret police. How would you respond to these reckless attacks?

TODD LYONS:

Sir, I can speak from personal experience, having served multiple administrations that the men and women of ICE are out there every day doing the law as it's written.

DALE STRONG:

What are the consequences of not enforcing federal immigration laws?

TODD LYONS:

Sir, if you look at what ICE has done, if you look at the amount of, as I said earlier, the amount of suspected terrorists that we removed from the country. We arrested 1,477 this year and removed 1,480. Just that impact alone along with the 7,800 gang members makes a significant impact on public safety and national security.

DALE STRONG:

Thank you. Turning to you Director Edlow, the US Citizenship and Immigration Service plays a role in administering legal immigration and protecting the integrity of the system. When immigration

enforcement is undermined or treated as illegitimate, how does that affect USCIS's ability to manage lawful pathways, prevent fraud and maintain public confidence in the legal immigration process?

JOSEPH EDLOW:

It makes it absolutely impossible, congressman, and that's why we've done everything we can to administer that system now and to not cut corners that were previously cut during the last administration.

DALE STRONG:

Thank you. Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

ANDREW GARBARINO:

Gentleman, yields back. I now recognize the gentleman from New York, Mr. Goldman, for five minutes of questions.

DAN GOLDMAN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Lyons, what guidance have you given to your agents about asking people walking on the streets of America to show proof of citizenship?

TODD LYONS:

Sir, as I stated earlier, the men and women of ICE, deportation officers, special agents, we conduct target intelligence driven operation. We don't walk around on the streets asking people about their American citizenship.

DAN GOLDMAN:

Really? So, all of those individual American citizens who have been randomly asked, are lying? Is that what you're saying?

TODD LYONS:

Sir, if the men and women of ICE are conducting an investigation, whether it be for Title 8 immigration enforcement or Title 18 criminal enforcement, they'll ask someone their nationality.

DAN GOLDMAN:

Right, but that's not targeted because they're asking all sorts of American citizens, including off duty law enforcement. Now, have you directed at any point your agents under the Supreme Court's Racial Profiling ruling to only stop nonwhite people and those who look like immigrants to ask for their citizenship papers?

TODD LYONS:

No, sir. I haven't.

DAN GOLDMAN:

Now, you are aware of course, and there's well documented, numerous well documented instances, of people, American Citizens, being asked to show and prove their citizenship. Do you know what other regimes in the 20th Century -- Century required similar proof of citizenship?

TODD LYONS:

Yes, sir.

DAN GOLDMAN:

What?

TODD LYONS:

Sir, there was very various nefarious regimes that did that.

DAN GOLDMAN:

Is Nazi Germany one?

TODD LYONS:

Yes.

DAN GOLDMAN:

But -- is the Soviet Union one?

TODD LYONS:

Sir, I honestly -- I'm asking the questions. Is the Soviet Union one?

Yes, sir. But I totally -- I totally -- this is the wrong type of questioning you should be asking me.

DAN GOLDMAN:

No, what's -- I'll tell you what the wrong type -- sir, it's my time.

TODD LYONS:

But actually, sir, it's Holocaust museum.

DAN GOLDMAN:

Reclaiming my time, sir.

TODD LYONS:

-- inaudible.

DAN GOLDMAN:

Reclaiming my time, Mr. Chairman.

TODD LYONS:

Not the men and women of ICE that are out there doing it every day. So, to say that the men and women of ICE are Gestapo's --

DAN GOLDMAN:

Mr. Chairman, I'm reclaiming my time. I would like my time back, please. Please give me another 15 seconds because he was unnecessarily speaking. You said in your opening statement that references to ICE as the Gestapo or the secret police encourages threats against ICE agents.

TODD LYONS:

One hundred percent.

DAN GOLDMAN:

The problem is you have it backwards, sir. People are simply making valid observations about your tactics, which are un-American and outright fascist. So, I have a simple suggestion. If you don't want to be called a fascist regime or secret police, then stop acting like one. But people are simply just observing what they are seeing, and that's why people are making those comments.

Now I was a prosecutor for ten years. I prosecuted mob bosses, organized crime, violent criminals, the actual worst of the worst. Not a single criminal law enforcement agent that I worked with wore a

mask to conceal their identity. But your department, which is a civil law enforcement agency, is defending the use of masks by your agents because of a so-called rise in threats and assaults against your officer.

Now, you said in your opening testimony that assaults against ICE officers are up by more than 1,400 percent; which is now even more than the 1,300 percent that your gaslighting spokesperson, Tricia from Ohio has recently been citing. But here's the problem. There are two separate very detailed, very thorough, investigative reports based on your own data that both conclude that assaults against ICE officers are up about 25 percent, which is far less, of course, than you assert and far less than you would expect from an agency that has more than doubled its hiring and has an even greater increase in arrests.

Now, why is that a problem, Mr. Lyons? It's a problem because the explanation that your agents are wearing masks because of fear of assaults or doxing, is outright bogus. You and your untrained, unqualified, unvetted, unidentified agents are intentionally terrorizing our cities and communities all over this country to avoid accountability for their excessive force and their lawless actions.

That is why you're wearing masks. So, no one can hold you accountable and you know that the FBI is not going to -- because notwithstanding all of the investigations all of you say are going on, the Department of Justice and the FBI has stated they are not investigating those two murders. This is not the America that I know and love.

This is not the America my immigrants came to, and it's long past time that you rein in your out of control agency and start following the law and the Constitution. And I yield back.

ANDREW GARBARINO:

Gentleman's time has expired. I now recognize the gentleman from Arizona, Mr. Crane, for five minutes of questions.

ELI CRANE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Um, it's interesting being in this hearing today, you know where my Democrat colleagues continue to demonize ICE and Homeland Security. I think history and context are very important here. Um, it's not lost on most of the American public that my Democrat colleagues actually caused this entire crisis with their open border policies that they all voted for, letting in close to 15 million illegal aliens.

Um, I also want to go through real quick some numbers of ICE deportations with other presidents who I believe both you, Mr. Scott and you, Mr. Lyons, have worked for. Under President Clinton, 12 million illegal aliens were deported and removed from this country. Some voluntary, some departures. Key, no riots.

Under President Bush, two million, no riots. Obama who was often referred to as the Deporter in Chief, five million including returns, no riots. President Trump in his first term, two million deported, no riots. President Biden, four million including expulsions varying by estimates, no riots. President Trump again this year, 625,000 with two million voluntary leaving through CBP home app.

Mr. Scott, can you explain why these other presidents that you worked for, both Democrat and Republican, have deported far more people than this president and we've seen no riots?

RODNEY SCOTT:

I would say it has a lot to do about rhetoric and misleading the American public about what's really going on and how important border security really is to this nation.

ELI CRANE:

Let's talk also about my Democrat colleagues and something they also supported and that's the sanctuary cities. I think that's very important and I don't think a lot of Americans really understand these sanctuary cities. Mr. Scott, Mr. Lyons, is it true that you would rather send your officers into a jail to get some of these illegal alien criminals?

Is it safer for your agents and also the illegal alien criminal if your officers are able to go into a jail instead of having to go out and find them on the street? Mr. Lyons, I'll start with you.

TODD LYONS:

Yes, sir, it would be. You wouldn't see the amount of law enforcement officers involved in immigration operations.

ELI CRANE:

Right. How about you, Mr. Scott?

RODNEY SCOTT:

I 100 percent agree with the director, and just as importantly, it would allow me to put more agents back on the border to prevent people from getting in here in the first place.

ELI CRANE:

Let's also talk about these riots. Um, Mr. Scott, Mr. Lyons, do you guys remember any riots, you know, when, uh, for some of these

victims that were assaulted and victimized by illegal alien criminals like Nate Baker, Laken Riley, Fletcher Harris, Skyler Provenza, Ivory Smith. I've got a whole list of them.

Do you remember any riots from our -- our Democrats or their constituents when any of these American citizens were victimized by illegal alien criminals?

RODNEY SCOTT:

No, sir.

TODD LYONS:

No, sir.

ELI CRANE:

Why do you think that is? Because that's the question that I get asked all the time. Congressman, why -- why do the Democrats care more about illegal alien criminals than they care about these American citizens, many of them who are -- are young, have their entire lives ahead of them. Didn't show up to a protest, right, to obstruct federal law enforcement.

They're just going about their daily lives and they get victimized by people who aren't supposed to be here. Why do you think they don't care about American citizens?

RODNEY SCOTT:

I cannot speculate, but when I look at the chaos that it creates and the corrosive nature that it creates, I go beyond the politics of the United States and I look at our nation state adversaries like Iran, Russia and China and their influence on social media to keep this negative

discourse going. And I think this is a much bigger issue than we're actually admitting that it is in here.

ELI CRANE:

I want to tie this together to something that's very pertinent that's going to happen this week here in Congress where the American people are going to see the bookend of what's going on. We are going to attempt to pass the SAVE America Act. OK, which requires documented -- documentary proof of US citizenship to register to vote.

It imposes photo ID requirements to vote and it penalizes officials who do not enforce these requirements and you won't see -- you won't see most of these folks over here on the other side that are demonizing you guys right now, you will not see them support it. So, they let millions and millions of illegal aliens into the country, they set up these sanctuary cities so you can't go and force these federal laws that are on the books that Congress has passed, and now they won't vote to stop these illegals from voting in our elections.

If you -- if -- if the American people don't understand what this whole thing is about, it's about one word and it always has been, and that is power. They want power and they need these illegals to vote in our elections, that's why they don't care about the fraud either because they need those votes as well.

Thank you. I yield back.

ANDREW GARBARINO:

Gentleman, yields back. I now recognize the gentlelady from Illinois, Ms. Ramirez, for five minutes of questions.

DELIA RAMIREZ:

Thank you, chairman. My mother, a Guatemalan immigrant and an American taught me that I have the responsibility to look evil in the eye and to fight it back. Mr. Lyon, Mr. Scott, Mr. Edlow, you have used your power to perpetrate great evil and it's about time you answered this committee for the lawlessness that you've empowered and defended in your testimony.

Mr. Lyons, I want to start with you and I want to talk about ICE because under your leadership, ICE has shot and killed Silverio Villegas Gonzalez and Renee Good, violated nearly 100 court orders in January alone. You've used banned chokeholds in more than 40 cases, engaged in warrantless arrests despite a consent decree, and you used children as bait to put 3,800 children in detention.

You created traps for people at immigration court who were following the law and doing it the legal way. And you broke the law by entering into people's homes without a judicial warrant in violation of the Fourth Amendment. Now let's talk about you, Mr. Scott and CBP next. Under your leadership, CBP has attempted to execute Marimar Martinez shooting her five times and not releasing the footage that you should release so that we can see the evidence.

Murdered Alex Pretti, used chemical agents dozens of times in Chicago after a judge ordered you to stop, conducted warrantless surveillance and racial profiling and acted with total disrespect and disregard for the law while engaging in roving patrols, plate switching, dangerous traffic maneuvers and observer intimidation.

Again, criminals act with that total disregard for the law, and we continue to see it. You would both have us talk about respect for your mission and your agents, but your agencies are unaccountable,

paramilitary forces and have just as much respect for you as I do for the last white men who put on masks to terrorize communities of color.

I have no respect for the inheritors of the Clan Hood and the Slave Patrol. Those activities were immoral then and criminal and so are yours. And that brings me to you, Mr. Edlow and USCIS. Truly USCIS is the most disappointing part of this whole panel for me. Mr. Edlow, let me ask you a question, is USCIS's mission to uphold America's promise as a nation of welcome and possibility with fairness, integrity and respect for all we serve, yes or no? Is that the mission?

JOSEPH EDLOW:

Congresswoman, the mission is to administer the lawful immigration system.

DELIA RAMIREZ:

OK. So, let me move on. So, it is not for the possibility of fairness, integrity and respect. I get that. I want to tell you about Mr. -- about Stephen. My constituent, Mr. Edlow. Stephen is a 14 year old with autism who is seeking asylum. This child has spent 60 days in detention center after he was detained with his dad at a check in. Let me ask you this, what kind of agency would strip asylum protections from children, even those with pending asylum claims and deport minors without due process?

You don't have to answer that. It's your agency, Mr. Edlow. You are doing that to Stephen, my constituent, an eighth grader. You have abandoned the mission and allowed USCIS to become a tool in DHS's abusive enforcement apparatus, Mr. Edlow. It is shameful to see what

USCIS has become. As I've said before, DHS, ICE and CBP, they're not really rogue.

Congress designed DHS to violate our rights under the pretense of securing our safety. I'm going to say it loud and clear and I'm proud to stand by what I say, DHS cannot be reformed. It must be dismantled and something new must take its place because if we let DHS persist, it will continue to be a weapon that can be pointed at anyone the government considers the public enemy.

And let me tell you, fascism always requires a public enemy. But the power of the people is stronger than the weapons they would wield against us. So, Mr. Lyons, Mr. Scott, Mr. Edlow, you have weaponized the government. You have supported a fascist enterprise at the expense of our constitutional rights. You have violated the law.

But let me remind you, you will not always be in power. One day you will be held accountable for your role in this dark moment in America, in our nation's history, I guarantee it. And with that, Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

ANDREW GARBARINO:

Gentlelady yields back. As I said, the issues we're debating here are important ones that members feel deeply about. While vigorous disagreement is part of the legislative process, members are reminded that we must adhere to establish standards of decorum and debate. Witnesses are here today voluntarily, and I will continue to remind members that while oversight is important, aggressively attacking witnesses personally is inappropriate and not in keeping with the best traditions of our committee.

And I now recognize the gentleman from Oklahoma, Mr. Brecheen, for five minutes of questions.

JOSH BRECHEEN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you to the witnesses. I want to start with the display over my shoulders and this is something that is not specific only to Oklahoma, this is something that every member of this committee, if you will go to the DHS website, every constituent of every member of Congress, if you're curious of really the dark days, I want you to go to the DHS website and I want you to look at those not far from where you live, moms and dads, the arrest of illegal aliens who were preying on minors just because of a really intentional act by Kate Bryant on my staff to go a couple of weeks ago and look just in eastern Oklahoma on the right side of me here, just in eastern Oklahoma, I represent almost all the entirety of eastern Oklahoma.

These are just the individuals, heinous acts to include those with children, and yet I want to read you in a wider, to my left over here, what is happening in the state of Oklahoma. This person was picked up, Angel Nicks [ph], sexual exploitation of a minor. Renton Andrew [ph], molestation -- molestation of a minor.

Chan Truding [ph], child fondling. Feliciano Garcia [ph], enticement of a minor. Cayetano Lopez [ph], statutory rape. Erasmo Avila [ph], rape and lewd acts with a minor. So, for everyone who is in short term memory, it's the way things operate in the court of public opinion, everyone is looking and you're forgetting the conversations you were having two and three years ago.

If you had teenage kiddos wanting to go outside of your home and you knew that they were going to go to Dallas, Texas, or some city and you knew that you had to have a conversation with them with what was

happening, the 15 million you knew were in the country illegally that you had no idea what -- what they would be doing, who would they be -- be preying upon, and moms and dads don't you feel just a little bit safer if we're going to be gut level honest?

That's the realization of what the generational opportunity this administration has afforded this country. It's the ability to feel safe over the madness of opening the border for that four year period that allowed 15 million people you don't know where they came from, you don't know their background, you don't know their history and this that is occurring right now is designed to make sure we have law and order in this country.

If you do not have law and order, you don't have prosperity. So, to -- to all those who are second guessing the reactionary moments to the law enforcement who have to respond in real time, the quarterback whose questions Monday -- is questioned Monday morning because he's facing the 300 pound defensive lineman, it's easy to do that.

But law enforcement walks out of their home every day and is faced with life or death questions and we have to understand they are the ones who are affording us the opportunity for our children to feel safe against these that are in your backyard. It's not just in the North, it's not just in Minneapolis, it's not just in Minnesota, they're in every state in the country.

Go to the Department of Homeland Security website and Google your area and look at who's being picked up in your backyard. That's how we recenter this conversation to truth. I want your children protected. I am grateful for this president who wants your children protected and an in administration. The same playbook is happening now to create

chaos and take your eye off the real goal, which is to secure our communities, to get back to back to a place of safety.

Mr. Lyons, can you describe because of not allowing these people to stay in jails, these sanctuary cities are letting them go, thousands released from jail because they will not cooperate with ICE, and when ICE tries to execute a detain or ask them to hold a criminal illegal alien for potential deportation, how is this compared with other non-sanctuary city regions in the country?

TODD LYONS:

Sir, it's night and day. When the jurisdictions that we do have cooperation, we're able to take that individual in a safe, secure environment. Not only is it a safe, secure environment for the officers and agents, but it's also for the individual and the community because we only need one to two officers to make that arrest.

Where now we're historically five or six. We need up to 15.

JOSH BRECHEEN:

From what you've seen in terms of protest in Minnesota and elsewhere, do you get the sense these agitators are trying to provoke your agents into reactions?

TODD LYONS:

Yes, sir.

JOSH BRECHEEN:

Can you expound upon that?

TODD LYONS:

We've seen multiple times and unfortunately we see like to shooting in Dallas where agitated groups use apps to identify the location of ICE officers, sometimes prior to even the law enforcement action begins and sometimes using those apps, put the officers and as well as other federal agencies and local agencies with them in danger because it exposes the fact of we're a law enforcement operation is happening.

JOSH BRECHEEN:

Mr. Scott, can you describe how the 300,000 children, the UACs, unaccompanied minors, that we're trying to find them, how these protests are stopping us from being able to recover those?

ANDREW GARBARINO:

The gentlemen will respond in writing to that question. Um, I now recognize the gentleman from New York, Mr. Kennedy, for five minutes.

TIM KENNEDY:

Thank you. Mr. Lyons, your written testimony today does not make one single mention of Renee Nicole Good or Alex Pretti. Not one. Two American citizens have been murdered at the hands of your agency and you have deliberately chosen under oath before Congress to ignore these tragedies. And so, today, my five minutes, I look forward to getting the American people some answers and some accountability that I believe they deserve.

Mr. Lyons, I have some simple yes or no questions. Do you believe the US Constitution provides due process for everyone in this country?

TODD LYONS:

Yes.

TIM KENNEDY:

Do you believe American citizens have the right to protest freely without being assaulted or killed by our government?

TODD LYONS:

Yes.

TIM KENNEDY:

Do you believe there should be an independent investigation when an innocent person is killed by a law enforcement agency in this country?

TODD LYONS:

Yes.

TIM KENNEDY:

Do you believe your agency has a legal obligation to follow court orders?

TODD LYONS:

Yes.

TIM KENNEDY:

Well, Mr. Lyons, you have a very strange way of showing it with a federal judge finding that your agency is in violation of 96 orders in one month alone. And that's just Minneapolis, Minnesota. This administration and the agencies represented before us have shown a complete and utter disregard for the law and the Constitution.

Renee Nicole Goode and Alex Pretti, both American citizens, both dead at the hands of federal agents. Alex Peretti was a VA ICU nurse who dedicated his life to healing people, healing veterans. I worked as an occupational therapist for over a decade. In that video that we've all seen, it was Alex Pretti who was doing what health care workers do, what nurses do, they help people, help people who are hurting, help people who are in trouble.

In this case, helping a fellow peaceful protester who was shoved to the ground right before your agents shot him ten times. And we're now learning that FBI Director, Kash Patel, stopped the US Attorney's office in Minnesota from investigating the death of Ms. Good because of fear that an investigation would contradict President Trump's falsehoods that she violently, willfully and viciously ran down an agent.

Six federal prosecutors resigned rather than participate in a cover up. Kristi Noem, Stephen Miller and you, Mr. Lyons, have appointed yourselves, judge, jury and executioner, allowing American citizens to be gunned down in our streets with impunity. We all know the president is a liar. He sold snake oil his entire life, but he can't tell us and the American people that we did not see with our own eyes what we saw in that video.

Two Americans shot dead in cold blood. The American people aren't stupid like he thinks we are. The fact that our government murders

American citizens, lies about it and then refuses to investigate or seek justice is beyond abhorrent; it's un-American. Mr. Lyons, in America we shouldn't have secret police, we shouldn't have masked government agents executing citizens in the streets.

The Constitution does not give your agency the right to hide their faces while they kill Americans. Will you commit, yes or no, to immediately unmasking every agent conducting immigration enforcement and requiring them to wear standard uniforms with identifiable badges?

TODD LYONS:

No.

TIM KENNEDY:

Well, that's a sad response. Your answer is completely unacceptable. People who are proud of what they do aren't hiding their identity. We're a nation of laws and you, your boss, Secretary Noem and Donald Trump are not above the law. The American people are angry and they're demanding accountability and justice from those giving the orders.

Mr. Lyons, yes or no, do you believe that Secretary Noem should resign?

TODD LYONS:

I'm not going to comment on that, sir.

TIM KENNEDY:

Sir, you're going to look the families of Renee Nicole Good and Alex Pretti in the eye and tell them Secretary Noem should keep her job

after their loved ones were killed?

TODD LYONS:

Sir, the loss of any life is unacceptable and the heart -- my heart, prayers and thoughts go out to anyone who tragically loses his life, especially a child since I've suffered personal loss in my life. But I'm not going to comment on ongoing investigation.

TIM KENNEDY:

Well, Mr. Lyons, the American people are watching. Your unwillingness to demand accountability from your own leadership speaks volumes to American citizens.

ANDREW GARBARINO:

The gentleman's time has expired.

TIM KENNEDY:

The American people deserve accountability.

ANDREW GARBARINO:

The gentleman's time has expired. It is a -- members are reminded that we must adhere to established standards of decorum and debate. It is a clear violation of the rules of the House to make statements that might be personally offensive to the President or the Vice President of the United States. I now recognize the gentlelady from South Carolina, Ms. Biggs, for five minutes of questions.

SHERI BIGGS:

Thank you, Chairman Garbarino, and thank you to our witnesses. Um, a big thank you for what you do each and every day to secure our border and to carry out the will of the American people. You know, this Trump Administration and the CBP and ICE, they've done a stellar job of securing our border and we can just look at the numbers, they tell the facts.

Crossings are down from a high of over 300,000 a month under President Biden to around 10,000 a month under President Trump. However, the lax border policies of the Democrats have flooded our country with tens of millions of illegal immigrants. This invasion was facilitated by sanctuary cities. Most cities will hand over criminal aliens -- aliens with a deportation order to ICE, but sanctuary cities refuse to do so; often releasing them back into the public around our communities, our children and making it unsafe.

Cities like Minneapolis pick and choose which laws they want to enforce. And by doing that, they place our federal law enforcement in danger, forcing ICE agents to make arrests out in public, something that could be avoided if sanctuary cities simply cooperated with the federal law. At the same time, radical leftists have stirred hysteria over routine immigration enforcement calling immigration officers, the secret police and even the gestapo.

Let me be very clear, this rhetoric has consequences. Between 2024 and 2025, we saw a more than 16,000 percent increase in threats of assault against immigration officers and over 8,000 percent spike in death threats targeting those who enforce our laws. In Minnesota alone, there have been over 60 threats and 20 assaults to ICE officers.

Just think about that, if you were going to work every day and had to deal with that. Sanctuary cities, they choose criminals over citizens.

My bill, the Mobilizing Against Sanctuary Cities Act, would cut off every single federal dollar to any city that helps illegals instead of law enforcement. Mr. Lyons, my question is to you, why should taxpayers fund far left politicians who put your agents at risk?

TODD LYONS:

Ma'am, unfortunately, what we've seen over and over is just the fact that there's so much rhetoric out there against the work the men and women of ICE have done. Again, going back in my career, um, this is my second decade, multiple administrations, and it's never been like this. And the actual public safety impact that the men and white -- men and women of ICE do every day is significant, and it should still be true for all 50 states.

SHERI BIGGS:

Thank you. So, I want to take it a little closer to home, what's happening in my district, the third district of South Carolina. It should alarm every single individual. These are real crimes committed by individuals illegally in our country right here in our communities confirmed by the Department of Homeland Security.

We heard a little bit from my colleagues earlier. So, let me just give you a few of the worst; vehicular homicide, child cruelty and indecent exposure, armed robbery, assaulting a police officer with a weapon and making terrorist threats. And I could go on and on. We're also seeing convictions for drug trafficking, burglary, forgery, repeated illegal reentry and more and more.

And this is what I consider chaos. And it's the direct result of open border policies that put American lives at risk. But amid all of this, we're seeing true heroes step up. Our federal immigration officers are

on the front lines of securing safety and prosperity for us and for our children. They've been given a difficult task, but they are -- they are up to the job and certainly meeting the demands.

We stand behind our immigration officers and their historic mission to restore the rule of law to the United States. And right here at home, our local law enforcement is rising to meet the challenge and I'm very grateful to them. So, just look at Anderson County Sheriff's Department, which you'll see in the photo behind me, which recently seized 180 pounds of cocaine.

That's 180 pounds of deadly drugs that will never reach our streets. Thanks to the courage and commitment. So, I just want to say thank you and I'm grateful for the job that you do.

ANDREW GARBARINO:

Gentlelady yields back. I now recognize the gentlelady from New Jersey, Ms. McIver, for five minutes of questions.

LAMONICA MCIVER:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and ranking member. Mr. Lyons, as the senior official leading ICE enforcement, much of today's scrutiny falls on you, and it should. You have seen repeatedly, we have seen repeatedly, that Republicans, Trump Administration, it's DHS and your agency will do absolutely anything to avoid answering for your actions.

When I showed up to inspect Delaney Hall, a private prison that you contract with, ICE tried not to give us an oversight tour. Then instead of taking accountability for ICE's attempts to keep us from seeing this facility's conditions to know if people's basic rights were being upheld,

this administration is doing all they can to try to put me in prison for 17 years.

When ICE shot and killed Renee Good, Kristi Noem called her a domestic terrorist. When Alex Pretti, you all tried to tell us he was threatening officers with a gun, but all we saw was a phone. This administration's clear lies fell apart, not because someone had a come to Jesus moment, but because we saw these murders from every angle.

You are only here because public outrage has become so unavoidable. You are here, Mr. Lyons, because white people are being -- are getting shot in the face and chest when the cameras are rolling. Because now my Republican colleagues care about optics, but when Keith Porter Jr., a black American citizen, a son, a father and a man loved by many was killed by an off duty ICE agent on New Year's Eve, there were no hearings.

So, this is for him today. In my district, Jean Wilson Brutus, a Haitian immigrant, a beloved family man, died within 24 hours of being in ICE custody. He is just one of more than 30 people who have died in ICE custody last year. This is for all of them, every human being your rogue out of control agency has hurt, hunted down, imprisoned, killed and continue to hold hostage even after they have agreed to be deported.

We know this administration doesn't care about protecting people or sparing lives. We all see so plainly, what you are doing, what you have been doing to black and brown folks, immigrants, people silenced in the shadows now in broad daylight to people peacefully rejecting your cruel agenda in the streets, which is their right to do. This is the despicable but predictable result of an agency that laughs at oversight,

receives billions to deploy lethal force on our neighborhoods and seems to believe that they are above the law and should be without accountability.

This administration believes it can act first, explain later or, hell, never -- never explain at all as we see here today. You all seem to think you are the highest power who decides which people deserve dignity, protection, due process -- and due process, but you are wrong. We are here for answers. We are here for accountability.

And we are here because people are dying. Let me repeat that, people are dying and you don't seem to care. So, Mr. Lyons, I've heard my colleagues ask many questions over and over again and you cannot answer them. So, let me ask you some questions that you may be able to answer. Mr. Lyons, do you consider yourself a religious man?

TODD LYONS:

Yes, ma'am.

LAMONICA MCIVER:

Oh, yes. OK, well, how do you think Judgment Day will work for you with so much blood on your hands?

TODD LYONS:

I'm not going to entertain that question.

LAMONICA MCIVER:

Oh, OK. Of course, not. Do you think you're going to hell, Mr. Lyons?

TODD LYONS:

I'm not going to answer.

LAMONICA MCIVER:

Of course not.

ANDREW GARBARINO:

Gentlelady --

LAMONICA MCIVER:

How many --

ANDREW GARBARINO:

-- gentlelady will suspend.

LAMONICA MCIVER:

How many government entities --

ANDREW GARBARINO:

The gentlelady will suspend.

LAMONICA MCIVER:

Chairman?

ANDREW GARBARINO:

As I -- the gentlelady will suspend. As I said, the issues we're debating here are important to ones that members feel deeply about.

LAMONICA MCIVER:

Thank you, chairman.

ANDREW GARBARINO:

While vigorous disagreement is part of the legislative process, members are reminded that we must adhere to established standards of decorum and debate. The witnesses are here voluntarily and I will continue to remind -- continue to remind members that while oversight is important, aggressively attacking those witnesses personally is inappropriate and not in keeping with the traditions of our committee.

LAMONICA MCIVER:

Mr. Chairman, I'm just asking a question. You all -- you guys are always talking about religion here in the Bible. I mean it's OK for me to ask a question, right? But let me continue on, I got your note.

ANDREW GARBARINO:

All right, the gentlelady may resume.

LAMONICA MCIVER:

Thank you so much. Let me get back to my questioning, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, I appreciate you. How many government agencies, Mr. Lyons, are you aware of that routinely kill American citizens and still get funding?

TODD LYONS:

Ma'am, I'm not going to entertain that. I'm not here to talk about criminal --

LAMONICA MCIVER:

Of course you're not. Exactly -- exactly, once again questions that you cannot answer and that is exactly why, Mr. Chairman, and to this committee, to my colleagues, and to my colleagues across the aisle, this is exactly why we should not be funding this agency. The people are watching you, they are watching you.

And this is why we need to abolish ICE. With that, I yield back. Thank you kindly.

ANDREW GARBARINO:

Gentlelady, yields back. I now recognize the gentleman from Colorado, Mr. Evans, for five minutes of questions.

GABE EVANS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, ranking member, for this important hearing. This past year has been historic for national security, thanks to the joint work between the agencies present today and our Republican colleagues. The Big, Beautiful Bill unlocked billions of dollars to finally secure the border and deliver much needed support for law enforcement officials who keep us safe every day, slashing things like the scourge of overdose deaths that claimed approximately 400,000 lives under the previous administration and this is despite increasing violence against federal officers, which has been inspired by fear mongering from the Democrats.

As a soldier for 12 years, as a cop for ten years and as the only Latino in Colorado's delegation, it's been my long standing position that with a secure border, we must use all available resources to target the worst of the worst; violent offenders like murderers and rapists and so-called nonviolent like drug dealers and thieves and child porn producers.

Get the gangsters, not the grandmas. Director Lyons, is ICEs priority the apprehension and removal of criminal non-citizens rather than the broader population of illegally present individuals?

TODD LYONS:

Yes, sir. ICEs continued focus is on the criminal aliens that are in our neighborhoods.

GABE EVANS:

Thank you. Unfortunately Democrats in my state in Colorado champion soft on crime, sanctuary policies at the state level and in cities like Denver, which borders my district. These policies not only impede federal investigations that target cartels, gang bangers, entities like Tren de Aragua, MS-13 the Sinaloa Cartel, but they also endanger our communities by releasing dangerous criminals back into the streets who continue to traffic drugs, steal cars, intimidate families and recruit children.

In fact, fentanyl overdose rates in Denver are going up in 2025. It's common sense that when local or state police arrest an individual for a crime, those officers should be able to obtain basic information about the arrestee and those state and local officers should then be allowed to share information with federal law enforcement to communicate threats, honor detainer requests and work together to ensure national security and public safety.

So, Director Lyons, can you please explain how ICE works around sanctuary policies to go after the worst of the worst? And do these sanctuary policies that release criminals back into the community increase or decrease ICEs presence in the community and the temperature of the interactions that ICE has with the community?

TODD LYONS:

Sir, when we deal with sanctuary jurisdictions, we do have to have more law enforcement officers on the street. But like I said earlier in my testimony, we'd much rather have the chance to take an aggravated felon, repeat DUI offender, into custody at a prison, local jail or some type of lockup environment where it's safer for my officers and for not only the individual, but that community as well.

And then given the opportunity to take that person into custody before that person can reoffend. Unfortunately as a field office director, when I ran the Boston field office, we saw too many times that we placed a detainer on a sexual assault individual who just went out later after the detainer was dropped to rape again.

And that is why we need cooperation at all levels, especially at local and state.

GABE EVANS:

Thank you. Director Lyons, my district, 40 percent Hispanic. It's full of successful business owners and strong immigrant families.

Unfortunately, my colleagues across the aisle are fanning the flames of fear for their own political gain in my Hispanic communities, scaring people over events that haven't happened in my district.

So, I'd like for you for just a brief moment to speak directly to my constituents who are legally present in the US, not criminals, but who are fearful of being searched or detained via immigration efforts. Should they fear ICE? And what policies does ICE have to prevent the seizure of people with legal status?

TODD LYONS:

Sir, ICE officers and special agents are trained in immigration and nationality. So, anyone that is here legally or lawfully or US citizen should not be concerned about being deported or detained.

Unfortunately, many times there are individuals that are with criminal illegal aliens. And so, as you being a former law enforcement officer, you know, you arrive on the scene, you ID everyone in that case.

If -- you know, if we're looking for an individual and someone is here present in the country illegally, then we're going to take action. We're not going to turn a blind eye no more. But someone that's in the country lawfully should not feel scared to walk down the street. Drive

--

GABE EVANS:

Thank you. Sorry. Sorry, I got 23 seconds left. Have one thing that I want to ask. As a cop, if I had an arrest warrant, and there's a difference between arrest warrants and search warrants. If I had an arrest warrant for an individual and I thought they were in the house or if I was assisting social services with a child removal, I still had to have an arrest warrant to go in the house.

So, I have many questions about the memo saying that you don't need a warrant to go into the house. Will you commit with me at a later date to discuss this?

TODD LYONS:

One hundred percent, sir. I look forward to sitting down and discussing that.

GABE EVANS:

Yield back.

ANDREW GARBARINO:

Gentleman, yields back. Gentleman yields back. I now recognize the gentlelady from Texas. Ms. Johnson, for five minutes or questions.

JULIE ELIZABETH JOHNSON:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to -- Mr. Lyons, I wanted to just follow up on a statement that you just made, which is that if you're here legally and lawfully, you should not worry. I think the problem is there are many, many, immigrants that are here legally -- legally and lawfully that are very worried because they have been snatched off the streets.

They have had their face beat in by ICE agents. They've been yanked out of their car, they've been driven around and harassed. And so, that is, I think at the end of the day, you know, the key nut of the crux here, which is that unfortunately there is not just this focus on criminals and that people who are here in legal status.

And for example, I have -- I have an example of this that I'd like to highlight for you. In -- back in October, Maha Tarabishy [ph], a North Texas resident who was allowed to be in this country legally, um, and had -- was under a supervision order to check in on an annual basis since 2008, and did that because he had an adult disabled son.

And so he was here working as an IT consultant and was here in legal process to take care of his adult legal son. He went to check into his appointment. It so happened to be at the time that the Dallas ICE office was closed due to the shooting. And so he was not able to check in. When he went back to check in, he was immediately snatched up

and detained because he missed his appointment that was unavoidable because the office was closed.

He told everyone here he was in legal status. He had been here since 2008 and he had an adult disabled son that would likely pass away if he was not released. He was not released, his son died, and then to complicate it, he was not allowed to go and attend the funeral. And he's still in detention in the Bluebonnet facility in Texas.

He is not a criminal, he has no criminal history. He was here legally. That is an unacceptable outcome. And I would like to know if you are willing to review his case and help us get his release because he should not be in the Bluebonnet Detention Facility under these facts.

TODD LYONS:

Yes, ma'am, we will -- I'm committed to reviewing that case for you.

JULIE ELIZABETH JOHNSON:

I appreciate that. The other issue that I am really very concerned about is these warrantless entries into people's homes. It is a problem that is of epic proportion. There was just recently yesterday, um, circulation, um, a Latino family, ICE just broke into their home without a warrant. And -- and there was an example where they arrested a man in his pajamas who had every right to be here as a US citizen, but wrongfully snatched out in the freezing cold without a warrant to do so. The problem that we're having -- nobody wants to see attacks on ICE agents, sir.

But this is something I have brought up in this committee time and time again, which is unfortunately under your leadership and under Secretary Noem's leadership, this rogue brutality that ICE agents are

inflicting upon the people of this country is not being reined in. It's not being -- the agents who are abusing their power are not being held accountable.

I'm sure that there are many, many, fine agents who are doing everything they can to exercise their duty lawfully. But the problem is there are agents who are not and the power that they have has gone to their head and they used that power unconstitutionally in violation of many people's direct constitutional rights.

And what you're seeing in this country is the fact that your agency, you're not -- it's not stopping. And rather than saying, yes, we're going to take steps to keep these people who are abusing their power and who are terrorizing citizens of this country wrongfully, that we're going to hold them accountable.

Rather than -- that's what we want to see. You're doubling down on that we're only going after criminals, which is in your own comments, you said that you had 397, I think that's right. 379,000 arrests, but only 8,700 of them were suspected gang members or known suspected terrorists. That's two percent. And the problem is we can't terrorize 98 percent of the people in this country that have been wrongfully detained for two percent.

That's -- that's not how the system works. And that is not OK. And so, we have to do a better job. And so, what -- what procedures are you putting in place to hold agents accountable who clearly have a hot trigger and who -- who clearly abuse their authority because someone has a phone and a whistle?

TODD LYONS:

Ma'am, ICE does have the Office of Professional Responsibility. It's a robust internal investigation agency that does investigate allegations of special agent or deportation officer misconduct and we do take everyone seriously and we do investigate those.

JULIE ELIZABETH JOHNSON:

Well, those are not being publicly reported and so that's where there's a huge breach of the public trust because there does not appear to be any accountability, sir. Thank you, and I yield back.

ANDREW GARBARINO:

Gentlelady yields back. I now recognize the gentleman from Pennsylvania, Mr. MacKenzie, for five minutes of questions.

RYAN MACKENZIE:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I appreciate all of our testifiers being here today. Before I begin, I would like to thank all of our members of law enforcement across the country who work every day to keep our communities safe and also to their families that sacrifice. We know that it's a challenging job and the environment is made particularly challenging by those who want to oppose our law enforcement from carrying out their lawful duties to keep everybody in our country and our community safe.

Uh, as was discussed earlier, there are a couple areas though where I think it's appropriate to discuss potential reforms and the way that we can improve our government operations. DHS guidance indicates that ICE does not arrest or detain US citizens, on the other hand, social media is full of reports and accusations that this is occurring.

As you know, any accusation that an American citizens rights are violated is very serious. Can you clarify, Mr. Lyons, whether this is something that occurs and what are the circumstances where a US citizen might be detained, and what steps does ICE take to prevent mistakes?

TODD LYONS:

Yes, sir, I appreciate the question. Well, unfortunately there's a misnomer that ICE is just a civil enforcement agency and that's completely wrong. ICE enforces over 400 criminal statutes as well. Special agents, especially with Homeland Security Investigations, they're consistently out there doing human trafficking cases, drug cases, uh, terrorism cases.

And we do encounter US citizens and those who do commit federal crimes are arrested. But under Title 8, no US citizen is subject to civil immigration enforcement and that just doesn't happen. There are multiple safeguards in that way. And if -- if a US citizen is detained in the course of immigration investigation, they're quickly released.

We don't take action on American citizens.

RYAN MACKENZIE:

If it does occur where a US citizen is detained during the course of another investigation, how is that documented and conveyed to the public about the fact that this did occur and what the circumstances around that were?

TODD LYONS:

So sir, what -- if you say it's a separate investigation, if it comes to a criminal case, obviously, um, a lot of those are under seal or ongoing

investigations. We won't expose that. But we -- we're transparent in the case when it comes to any US citizen that's detained in any law enforcement operations that subsequently arrested.

RYAN MACKENZIE:

I appreciate that. I think greater transparency could be beneficial for both the American public and everybody involved here. If we clearly articulate what occurred in many of these instances, I've seen it myself when I'm looking into local issues in our community. There are oftentimes two sides to the story and when it is actually conveyed what did occur and why it occurred, there's a greater understanding in our local community of the law enforcement activities that occurred.

The second thing I would like to hit on is jurisdictions which are sometimes referred to sanctuary cities. Not a clear definition, as we all know, but local authorities in our community, we have Northampton County, which does not honor ICE detainer requests for 48 hours and properly convey to ICE and law enforcement about the release of that individual when that may occur or even during that detainer period allow ICE to come under their property to make an arrest in a secure facility.

Obviously, that leaves our community in a vulnerable position. Uh, in our case, members of Tren de Aragua, domestic abusers, have been released onto the street and ICE had to stake out that location, making the arrests in an unsecure way out in the local community.

From your perspective, how does this dynamic affect public safety and day to day operations and where or how can we change and improve the coordination between ICE and state and local partners?

TODD LYONS:

Thank you, sir, again. And what I would say is just very basic communication would go a long way for public safety. You know ICE respects and abides by state and municipality laws as well. Sometimes you can't hold for any reasons, but a simple phone call to let us know that that individual is going to be released, or if that individual is released sharing that biographical data with us will go a long way because the last thing we want is a criminal illegal alien to go back into the community.

And more often than not, they prey upon other migrants who are coming here for a better life, yet they can hide in plain sight because these sanctuary jurisdictions won't just pick up a phone, notify ICE that they're being released.

RYAN MACKENZIE:

Well, I appreciate that. I think we want full cooperation between our local law enforcement and federal agents when they're trying to do their job. If somebody is on a detainer, they should be allowed onto that property given the ability within that detainer window to make a lawful arrest. I think it would go a long way to keeping our community safe.

I would like to thank all of you again for being here. The fact that you are here and present for this kind of testimony, I think brings greater accountability and increases the ability for us to make reforms in Congress. Thank you again.

ANDREW GARBARINO:

Gentleman, yields back. I now recognize the gentlelady from New Jersey, Ms. Pou, for five minutes of questions.

NELLIE POU:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and to our Ranking Member Thompson. Um, gentlemen, thank you so very much for being here. Let me just be clear, Secretary Noem must step down or be impeached by the House, period. The lawlessness, the cruelty, the outright viciousness that she has created has destroyed an agency whose very mission is to protect our country.

Under Noem's leadership, Congressional oversight is ignored, detention visits are blocked, due process is ignored and laws are broken without thought. This is the first time any of you have testified before our committee. It took two American citizens being murdered in cold blood to get you to show up. ICE raids schools, churches and hospitals.

And let's not forget five year old Liam Ramos, you used him as a bait and then detained him despite his father's legally -- his father legally seeking asylum. Liam is the face of your cruelty. My district is one of the most ethnic -- ethnically diverse in America. Our diversity is our strength, but somehow you all seem to believe it's a weakness.

Last fall, the Supreme Court greenlit ICE's ability to yank people off the street based on one, uh, one thing such as quote, "The type of work one does, speaking Spanish, or speaking with an accent, and their apparent -- and their apparent race or ethnicity." Mr. Lyons, I speak Spanish, if I wasn't wearing any, uh -- if I wasn't wearing my member pin, would me, being a Latina, or -- or speaking Spanish be enough for ICE agents to harass me or shove me into one of your unmarked cars?

TODD LYONS:

No, ma'am.

NELLIE POU:

I speak for all of us when I say that I think we know the real answer to this. These are the realities traumatizing my constituents. We know that ICEs transferring New Jersey detainees to other states like Texas, ripping them from their families and leaving them unable to challenge their detention. Mr. ICE, yes or no -- I'm sorry, Mr. Lyons, yes or no?

TODD LYONS:

Ma'am, I'm sorry.

NELLIE POU:

Will you -- will you provide us with a list of people ICE has transferred from New Jersey to other states so that I can inform their families where they are?

TODD LYONS:

Yes, ma'am.

NELLIE POU:

These are people like my constituent Li Cao Cordelia [ph], who's ICE shipped to Texas and continues to detain -- uh, to detain despite -- despite two judicial orders compelling her release. Over the weekend, Li Cao was hospitalized for over -- for 72 hours while -- while her family had no idea where she was at nor was the -- nor the status of her condition.

Mr. Lyons, would you be willing to -- to look into this to make sure to release my constituent? Why have we failed? Why have you failed to

inform her family where she was sent and the status of her condition?
When will she be freed?

TODD LYONS:

Yes, ma'am, you have my commitment that I'll look into that.

NELLIE POU:

Thank you. Now soon, Mr. Lyons, and all of you, my district will host the World Cup matches and hundreds of thousands of visitors will come. Visitors confident -- confidence is plunging, plummeting, and jeopardizing the World Cup. Mr. Lyon, will ICE commit, will you commit, to ensure that pausing its operations and raise at FIFA matches and other FIFA sanctioned public events?

TODD LYONS:

Ma'am, ICE, specifically Homeland Security Investigations, is a key part of the overall security apparatus for the World Cup. We're dedicated to securing that operation and we're dedicated to the security of all our participants as well as visitors.

NELLIE POU:

You realize that if they feel that they're going to be wrongfully incarcerated, or wrongfully pulled out, that's going to hurt this entire process. I hope you realize that.

TODD LYONS:

Yes, ma'am, and ICE is dedicated to ensuring that everyone that visits the facilities will have a safe and secure event.

NELLIE POU:

Without these assurances, our local communities and national reputations will indeed be suffered. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

ANDREW GARBARINO:

Gentlelady yields back. I now recognize the gentleman from North Carolina, Mr. Knott, for five minutes of questions.

BRAD KNOTT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Using the trope diversity is our strength as an excuse for lawlessness is unbelievably naive and dangerous. Nobody in this room would say that diversity is a bad thing. Lawlessness is a bad thing. Law and order is much more of our strength than open border policies that welcomes anybody with no vetting.

And when you get down to the nuts and bolts of this issue, we would not be having this hearing if the Democrats attacked illegal immigration with the same vigor that they're attacking law enforcement and the men at this table. That's a fact. And it's -- it's worth noting that the dishonesty in framing these issues -- these issues, has been unbelievably obvious, it's been consistent and just to -- as an as an anecdote, Mr. Lyons, was Liam used as bait by your agency.

TODD LYONS:

No, sir. Actually law enforcement officers took care of the child after the -- the father abandoned him at a --

BRAD KNOTT:

Walk us through what that means?

TODD LYONS:

So, sir, the individual that was driving that vehicle that Liam was in fled from the scene from the officers. Officers -- uh, he was obviously upset. We comforted him. The officers actually placed him in one of our vehicles, played his favorite song, favorite music, then they took him to McDonald's.

BRAD KNOTT:

You all got him McDonald's? So, you all did not abduct him. You did not use him as bait. Any characterization of that is a lie, and it has been repeated over and over by the Democrats to frame your agency. You know, it's worth noting again that the Democrats fought to prevent any vetting of 20 million illegal immigrants into this country over the last four years.

They attack agents rather than those who are assaulting agents today. They continually mis frame what's happening in the ground. They continually malign the law enforcement officers who are providing legal structure to otherwise lawless landscapes in this country. And it's worth noting that there have been roughly two million people in the country who have been removed in the last year, some voluntarily and then some by forced deportations.

We've heard roughly about 25 cases of alleged abuse. Some of them, as I just -- as I just pointed out, are dishonestly framed. But let's do a favor to the Democratic side, let's increase that number by -- by 1,000 times. Twenty-five thousand cases of alleged abuse or improper

protocols, we're still -- we are still operating at roughly 99 percent proficiency.

Given the scale of the problem, the scale of the solution that you all are operating under, your agents are doing a remarkable job, and I thank you. But one issue that I want to talk about is this idea of sanctuary policies. Sanctuary policies is not just a passive relinquishing effort, it's an active obstruction.

Isn't that true, Mr. Lyons?

TODD LYONS:

Yes, sir.

BRAD KNOTT:

And what I mean by that is, when I say it's an active, to be specific, there are -- there are sanctuary states and cities that will release violent criminals rather than handing them over to pursuing federal law enforcement. Isn't that correct?

TODD LYONS:

That's correct, sir.

BRAD KNOTT:

I left the hearing a few moments ago just to find a quick example. Here's one right behind me. Just 30 hours ago, an illegal alien arrested for stabbing an American in the back. He was charged with attempted murder, he pled to a lesser offense. The feds wanted him, sought a detainer and then rather than hold him for your agent's pickup, he was released back into the streets of Maryland.

That is not an unusual action from local hostile law enforcement is it, Mr. Lyons?

TODD LYONS:

No sir, that's what we face every day.

BRAD KNOTT:

So, we've heard the Democrats complain that we're not getting the worst of the worst, but they're sanctuary jurisdictions that control roughly 40 percent of this country's population, will actively release sex predators, drug dealers, violent offenders rather than hand them over to you for deportation and these are people who are already in custody.

Am I correct, Mr. Lyons?

TODD LYONS:

Yes, sir. The individuals are already deemed a public safety threat by local or state law enforcement.

BRAD KNOTT:

And then when they get a federal detainer, they will release them on the street rather than turn them over for deportation.

TODD LYONS:

Yes, sir.

BRAD KNOTT:

It's disgusting. Mr. Scott, I want to talk to you briefly, I'm running out of time. How many cities does your agency operate in?

RODNEY SCOTT:

We operate nationwide.

BRAD KNOTT:

Why is it that there is so much tension in Minneapolis, Saint Paul, right now?

RODNEY SCOTT:

Because paid agitators are actively trying to stop law enforcement action. Without that, you wouldn't even have any idea most of these arrests were taking place.

BRAD KNOTT:

In many parts of the country, local law enforcement assists your efforts to bring legal structure to these lawless areas. Isn't that correct?

RODNEY SCOTT:

That's correct.

BRAD KNOTT:

And when order is maintained, you can do your job peacefully, correct?

RODNEY SCOTT:

Correct, and all we've ever asked is for law enforcement to do their job, not necessarily --

BRAD KNOTT:

In Minneapolis, Saint Paul, local law enforcement, in some cases, have been prohibited from maintaining order so you can do your job, isn't that correct?

RODNEY SCOTT:

Correct.

ANDREW GARBARINO:

Gentleman's time has expired.

BRAD KNOTT:

I yield back. Thank you.

ANDREW GARBARINO:

I now recognize the gentleman from Virginia, Mr. Walkinshaw, for five minutes.

JAMES WALKINSHAW:

Thank you. Mr. Chairman. Director Lyons, your opening statement referenced the importance of protecting children, and I'm glad to hear your commitment to that. I want to focus on one of President Trump's mass deportation policies that the experts say harms children; child detention. In this administration under your watch, ICE has booked nearly 4,000 children and 1,000 of them have been held longer than the court ordered 20-day limit.

Recently, ProPublica obtained handwritten letters and drawings from children detained by ICE. These are letters from children describing what it feels like and what it does to them when the government locks

them up. This is Ariana [ph], she's 14 years old, detained for 45 days. Since I got to this center, all I feel is sadness and mostly depression.

This is Mia [ph] seven years old. I don't want to be in this place. I want to go to my school. This is Scarlett [ph] 17 years old. I feel very bored and overwhelmed because I am locked up. This is Gaby [ph] 14 years old, I feel so much sadness and depression of not being able to leave. This is Maria [ph], nine years old.

Me and Dili [ph] am not happy. Please get me out of here. This is a 12 year old, going to the doctor and the only thing they tell me is drink more water. The water here is what makes people sick. And this one got me, Mr. Lyons, because this is a five year old, Luis Annie [ph]. My son's five, he can't write many words, but he can communicate through drawings like this.

This is a picture of Luis Annie's family and you might be able to see that none of the faces are smiling. Child detention is not required by law. You know that. It's not the only option available and it's not effective. We know that community-based alternatives can ensure compliance with proceedings without traumatizing these children, yet you continue to detain and hold children for weeks or months, depriving them of school, stability, leaving them afraid, sick and confused.

And one of the key reasons for your mass detention, including the detention of Liam and his father, is to pressure people to give up their legal opportunities and pathways to remaining in the United States. Liam's father was following the rules, following the legal process, with a valid claim. Let me be clear, no child, not Liam Ramos, not Gaby or any of these children should be used as pawns in Stephen Miller's sick and twisted great replacement agenda.

Mr. Lyons, in 2025 the British Journal of Psychiatry analyzed all of the data on the impact of immigration detention on children's health. Have you read that study and analysis?

TODD LYONS:

No, sir, I haven't.

JAMES WALKINSHAW:

You're the director of the -- you are not familiar with that literature?

TODD LYONS:

No sir.

JAMES WALKINSHAW:

You could tell me I'm sure chapter and verse on the tactics and the equipment that your agents use, military style equipment across the country in American cities, but you don't know anything about the literature of the impacts of your policies on children? You haven't read it?

TODD LYONS:

No, sir.

JAMES WALKINSHAW:

The Flores Agreement, I'm sure -- I'm sure you know that, sets a 20-day limit on detaining children. You and the Trump Administration are trying to terminate that agreement. How long would you like to hold children? Twenty days, 40 days, 60 days, 100 days? What's the right number, Mr. Lyons?

TODD LYONS:

So, we wouldn't like to hold any children. We would like to remove that family unit together safely and humanely and as quickly as possible.

JAMES WALKINSHAW:

Thank you. Since you haven't read the literature, let me tell you what it says. Detention harms children. No period, no period. Not 20, 40, 75 days that you're holding children, can be deemed safe. All detention of children has adverse impacts and is profoundly detrimental. Your policies are profoundly detrimental to children.

I yield back.

ANDREW GARBARINO:

Gentleman, yields back, I now recognize the gentleman from California, Mr. Fong, for five minutes of questions.

VINCE FONG:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Uh, thank you all, uh, for -- for those who are here testifying. Um, I want to thank you -- to you and your teams and your personnel for what you do. Uh, Commissioner Scott, you mentioned and you -- in your testimony, national security cannot exist without effective border security.

Couldn't agree more. Uh, everyone on your teams are doing tremendous work under difficult -- difficult conditions and I want to thank you all. Um, I do want to ask and dive in a little deeper as a Californian, uh, on -- on the dangers and the -- and the consequences of these sanctuary policies. Uh, Director Lyons, um, I was in the state

legislature in 2017. Uh, when -- when, uh, sanctuary state policies were put in, uh, in California.

I opposed SB 54, uh, because at that time and everything has proven to be true, it was outlined that the impact on -- on ICE and Border Patrol agents was that they would be reduced information and access. Agents would be conducting higher risk enforcement operations and that there would be operational constraints when it comes to limiting cooperation between state and local law enforcement.

I want, um -- wanted to get your perspective, Director Lyons, and I'll go to you, uh, Commissioner Scott as well. What -- can you give specifics on how, um, these sanctuary state policies impact your operations in, in real time compared to non-sanctuary operations?

TODD LYONS:

Well, sir, for ICE, what -- I kind of -- I'll refer back to what we talked about earlier in my testimony. The fact that, uh, when state or local or county agencies don't cooperate with Immigration and Customs Enforcement, it forces us to go back into the community, which we don't want to do. It also increases the number of assets we have to put towards that arrest.

Uh, like I said earlier, I would much rather send one or two agents or officers to make that arrest in a safe, secure location, rather than being out in the street. It's safer for everyone involved.

VINCE FONG:

And before you, uh -- before I go to you Commissioner Scott and answer, I just want to let everyone know in California, and I think it was just reported a couple days ago, there were currently 33,179

illegal aliens in the custody of California jurisdictions with active detainers. The crimes of these aliens include 399 homicides, 3,313 assaults, 3,170 burglaries, 1,011 robberies, 8,380 dangerous drug offenses, 1,984 weapon offenses and 1,293 sexual predatory offenses.

These are the real world consequences, isn't that right, Commissioner Scott, when we don't have cooperation, they're released into the community.

RODNEY SCOTT:

Those are exactly the consequences and I would just add California specific, they went above and beyond everybody else. I mean in a negative way. They prohibited state and locals when they saw a crime taking place in front of them from sharing that information with us. San Diego, for example, right after that law was -- was passed, a highway patrol pulled over a U-Haul van and it was a smuggling event; probably a human trafficking event.

A Border Patrol agent just happened to roll up on it and found out, luckily, but that -- that highway patrol was disciplined and actually investigated internally and that sent a chilling effect across the entire state of California that not only can you not actively take, like help us, you couldn't even pass information to us in a normal course of duties.

Border security law enforcement is a team sport. We need to be working together not against each other.

VINCE FONG:

Now, can you explain what would have happened, and I think you alluded to it, but what would have happened prior to that if there was

local and state coordination with federal law enforcement?

RODNEY SCOTT:

On a daily basis, especially along the southwest border and let's not forget and the coast, because we have boats coming in, when a state or local agency would see illegal activity that they had -- they could take action on. And then they saw a federal crime they would contact us, it happened all the time and that completely ceased to exist when SB 54 was passed.

VINCE FONG:

And these crimes, of course, as you mentioned before, if you go into specifics, I mean, this is trafficking both humans and drugs. This is, uh, rape assaults. I mean, anything -- you're telling me that if any of those crimes occurred, if right now in California, uh, if -- if someone witnessed it, if a state law enforcement or local law enforcement witnessed these crimes being committed, they could not notify you?

RODNEY SCOTT:

They have some felony exceptions, but in most cases you don't know until you start asking questions if it's just a smuggling event or human trafficking event. Until you actually pop the trunk of the vehicle or the back of the car, you don't know what commodity is back there if it's -- if it's people or something else.

It put a chilling effect beyond the -- the actual written language on any kind of cooperation in the state.

VINCE FONG:

Well, I want to thank you for that. Yes, there were some exceptions when it comes to felonies, but someone who lives in California and was there for the discussion and debate, everything we warned about when it came to sanctuary state policies and the consequences to our community and the consequences to public safety, they have come true.

And that is sad and unfortunate and we need to undo those policies. So, I want to thank you all for your leadership and testimony and your work. Thank you, and Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

ANDREW GARBARINO:

Gentleman, yields back. I now recognize the gentleman from Louisiana, Mr. Carter, for five minutes questions.

TROY CARTER:

Mr. Chairman, thank you very much. And to our witnesses, thank you for being here. What we've heard today and seen play out in the streets of this nation for the past year, straight out of the Trump Administration's fascist playbook; cheat, murder, lie about it, practice the art of mass distraction. The American people are not happy about this.

This administration's officials are sitting before us, two people are dead. I understand that there's an investigation and you cannot go into the details about that, but there certainly appears to be no shame on the part of these officials who undoubtedly watched some of your officers conduct themselves in ways that I know you don't condone.

Not as law abiding people, right? So, I got to give you the benefit of the doubt. And I can't understand why you show no shame, no contrition,

no remorse for the human lives that have been lost or for the trampling of the Constitution and the tearing apart of the moral fiber of our nation. They think, apparently, you think, apparently, you've been coached, apparently.

You've been called out of the room with a forced break to be told to be more aggressive, to push back against questions. The American people saw that happen. The American people watched as you all looked at each other, oh, I didn't ask for a break, and clearly you were caught in the back to be coached. A half time locker room pep talk.

This isn't a game. These are people's lives. We should all be -- you should be -- your officers should be held accountable that no one is above the law. No one can evade the Constitution. No person can evade what is right, even though you think that Donald Trump will protect you, and maybe he will for now, but there will be a time that you'll have to answer these questions.

And while you have worked on many administrations and it's been asked, you worked on different administrations, what's different? I'll tell you what's different, the approach. The approach of how you conduct your -- your, your search and seizure. The reason there were so many others and they were not riots was because people were not being trampled.

You had trained officers who knew the art of de-escalation. They understood the rule of law, they understood the Constitution. Yet now we continue to hear lies. Last year I took members of Congress on an oversight visit to ICE facility. We were told certain things that turned out to be patent lies. They told us things that we witnessed within moments of being there to not be true, yet we continue to hear you

and some of my colleagues suggest, don't believe your eyes, don't believe your ears, just trust us. Well, the American people can see.

And this notion that Democrats don't want enforcement, those are talking points that are wrong. We want rapists and murderers off the street. We want the bad, the worst of the worst to be arrested and to be deported if they aren't supposed -- supposed to be here. What we don't want is citizens running down the street being chased by ICE agents, people being shot on the streets by rogue officers who are, in fact, American citizens.

What we don't want is to see people like Ms. Good or Mr. Pretti simply doing what we often say, if you see something, say something. We don't want to see people dying on the streets. So, let me -- let me ask you a quick question. Mr. Lyons, has ICE ever detained American citizen such as they are not free to leave, whether it is on the sidewalk, street or thrown into the back of an ICE vehicle because they looked or sound a certain way even though they said they were American citizens?

Yes or no, quickly, I only got 38 seconds.

TODD LYONS:

No. No, sir.

TROY CARTER:

That's never happened before?

TODD LYONS:

That we've arrested one? No, sir. We've detained individuals just to verify identity, but we haven't arrested or deported. No, sir.

TROY CARTER:

Detain, arrest. Check it out, same thing.

TODD LYONS:

Yes, sir.

TROY CARTER:

All right. Does -- what does an undocumented person look like or sound like? Does it look like Mr. Garbarino? Does it look like me?

TODD LYONS:

Could look like anyone, sir.

TROY CARTER:

OK, how are you training your people? Because you've said, and others have said, if they sound a certain way, they look a certain way, we're going to stop them. That was quoted by your people. What do you say to that?

TODD LYONS:

Sir, what I say is that ICE does criminal targeted enforcement based on intelligence and we don't use the color of skin or accents for that.

TROY CARTER:

So, the person who said that was wrong?

ANDREW GARBARINO:

We'll let the gentleman -- we'll let the gentleman get that answer in writing. His time has expired. We will now recognize the gentleman from Tennessee, Mr. Van Epps, for five minutes of questions.

MATT VAN EPPS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for holding this hearing and to our witnesses for testifying today. I want to commend the job the Trump Administration and you gentlemen are doing to secure the border, enforce federal immigration laws and keep dangerous criminals off our streets. Under President Biden, we saw unprecedented levels of illegal immigration and many of those who came across the border were connected to transnational criminal organizations and have continued to commit crimes while in the United States.

Despite doing everything they could to secure our borders, our brave CBP officers and Border Patrol agents were undermined at every turn by the Biden-Harris Administration. Yet under President Trump, CBP, Border Patrol and ICE have been empowered to do their job and fulfill their mission. As a Representative from Tennessee, I can't help but compare operations in Minneapolis to those in Memphis.

Federal law enforcement operations in Memphis have been successful by every standard and metric, with Memphis Safe Task Force arresting over 6,000 people. And while immigration enforcement isn't a stated goal of this task force, there is no question that -- that it is also taking place. The successful operations are due in large part to the outstanding -- outstanding leadership of Governor Lee who has worked closely with federal partners.

Over the last year, the Trump Administration has arrested numerous gang members, pedophiles and drug traffickers in Memphis with little fanfare or interference from activists. As a result of this cooperation,

murders in Memphis are down by 47 percent since President Trump took office and overall violent crime is down by 30 percent.

In May of last year, ICE enforcement and removal operations worked with Tennessee Highway Patrol and DHS components to successfully arrest 196 criminal illegal aliens across the greater Nashville area. I am grateful for the role the members of the Tennessee Highway Patrol played in that operation and their cooperation has made my district significantly safer.

Since then, over 56 partnering agencies are working together alongside ICE to keep Tennesseans safe. ICE has carefully highlighted the worst of the worst criminal aliens it has arrested. Today, I will be entering into the record nearly 120 illegal aliens that have been arrested in Nashville with rap sheets ranging from identity theft to drug smuggling, larceny to arson and robbery to rape.

Federal agents are executing their mission to defend American citizens and protect our communities. The major challenge we've seen in Minneapolis and similar cities are directly caused by sanctuary city policies and the refusal of local leaders to enforce the law, preventing local law enforcement from working with ICE. This leaves ICE and others unsupported, having to manage protesters and domestic friction in addition to their actual mission of enforcing immigration law.

Local law enforcement is crucial to facilitate the mission. Director Lyons, contrast ICEs experience in Minneapolis with other cities around the country including Memphis and others that have agreements to work with ICE. What can successful partnerships with local law enforcement and other partners look like?

TODD LYONS:

Sir, thank you. I would say that Memphis is a prime example and I have to give credit to the US Marshal Service that's leading that operation. Homeland Security investigation agents are out there every day with the men and women of Tennessee, Highway Patrol, Memphis Police Department and the reduction in crime has been significant.

But if you look across the country almost at every state, we do have cooperative jurisdictions. If you look at Texas, Texas, we have outstanding cooperation. You don't see any riots or anything like that. You see side by side law enforcement working together as it would be. If you look at the state of Florida, state of Oklahoma, state of Louisiana all across the nation, we do have that.

And what -- what it is, is it's public safety.

MATT VAN EPPS:

Thank you. Next I want to commend the Trump Administration for locking down our southern border. A year ago it was -- it was a highway for illegal aliens and illicit materials. Today, it is secure and closed. Commissioner Scott, as Congress and the Trump Administration enabled DHS to secure the southern border, how are cartels and other criminal organizations adapting to effective border enforcement.

RODNEY SCOTT:

They're going to continue to -- to push back. I think some of it is in these protests because if we can shut down interior enforcement that allows them to basically market their -- their goods, if you will, to

smuggle people in and they need those people to be distractions. Because without it, they have to start digging million dollar tunnels.

Without it, they have to spend a bunch of money on drones, which we're countering. But without it, they have to go out into the ocean where they stick out like a sore thumb and we're increasing our radars on the west coast and increasing our air coverage. Basically. It affects their bottom line and it makes it harder and harder for them to bring their poison, and anybody that wants to threaten this country that's willing to pay them here.

MATT VAN EPPS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to submit for the record a list of DHS worst of the worst in Tennessee, three quotes from Tennessee, seven sheriff's supporting ICE and five new news articles germane to the hearing in Tennessee. And sir, I yield back.

ANDREW GARBARINO:

Without objection. The gentleman yields back. I now recognize the gentleman from Texas, Mr. Green, for five minutes of questions.

AL GREEN:

Thank you. Mr. -- Sorry, Mr. Chairman, can you hear me now?

ANDREW GARBARINO:

The microphone, right there.

AL GREEN:

Well, will you give me a moment to get a bit closer, please? Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And I say it sincerely, I believe this is a most valuable

hearing and I'm honored that the ranking member would be here with us to accommodate us as is the case with you. Mr. Lyons, is it true that you have a criminal justice degree, a bachelor's degree in criminal justice?

TODD LYONS:

Yes, sir, it is.

AL GREEN:

Is it also true that you have a master's degree in criminal justice leadership?

TODD LYONS:

Yes, I do.

AL GREEN:

And would you, as a professional with two degrees in criminal justice, indicate to us that if an officer commits murder, that that officer should be prosecuted?

TODD LYONS:

Sir, any law enforcement misconduct needs to be investigated and prosecuted.

AL GREEN:

Investigated and prosecuted. And have you seen the widely published video of the killing of Mr. Alex Pretti?

TODD LYONS:

Yes, sir.

AL GREEN:

And sir, my assumption is that if I ask you whether this was an injustice, you would say you cannot comment because of an ongoing investigation, is that a fair statement?

TODD LYONS:

Yes, sir.

AL GREEN:

And what is the rationale for not responding to an ongoing investigation?

TODD LYONS:

Sir, I don't want to impede --

AL GREEN:

I don't want you to.

TODD LYONS:

-- or jeopardize the investigation.

AL GREEN:

No, no, no, no. Not -- not this one. Any -- any, as your -- in your profession now, but any investigation, what's the rationale, not this one, any?

TODD LYONS:

Same for any -- any investigation, sir? I don't want to --

AL GREEN:

You would not want to tell us --

TODD LYONS:

-- bias or put -- put my finger on the scale of any investigation.

AL GREEN:

You're not. What's the rationale for you're not testifying about it is my question?

TODD LYONS:

I don't understand your question, sir.

AL GREEN:

Why would -- what does the law say? What is the rationale? What harm would it do if you testified?

TODD LYONS:

Because I don't have the full facts of the case yet, sir.

AL GREEN:

Exactly, that's what I expected you to say. You don't have the full facts. Thank you. And I assume you would agree with this, Mr. Scott, is this true?

RODNEY SCOTT:

Yes, sir.

JOSEPH EDLOW:

And Mr. Edlow, you would agree? I assume so. I'm not a professional in law enforcement.

AL GREEN:

Well, but you're a professional person with a degree of intellect such that you can comment on whether or not --

JOSEPH EDLOW:

I certainly would not comment on anything.

AL GREEN:

Not a specific case. We're talking about now, any case. Would you agree that it would cause harm for you to testify before there's an investigation?

JOSEPH EDLOW:

Certainly, without having all the facts.

AL GREEN:

All right, surely you would agree. Which brings us to Secretary Noem. Secretary Noem accused Mr. Pretti of brandishing a firearm while wishing to inflict harm on the officers. Secretary Noem, same rules that apply to you, apply to Secretary Noem. Accused these officers, this gentleman, Mr. Pretti, of brandishing a firearm.

Secretary Noem doing this when she did without an investigation, we have to agree that there's not been an investigation. I don't think I have to ask you that, not a complete investigation that we know of

anyway, she did it right afterwards. Having done this, she is violating this very basic principle that you have called to our attention today.

And we have to ask ourselves, why would she go so far as to say brandishing when he did not. The video will clearly show it. And she said wishing to inflict harm. Did not inflict any harm. But the secretary, without an investigation, made these comments. I'll tell you why. The secretary was in a rush to cover up, to make sure that she was protecting the officers without regard for the life that was lost.

And in doing this, she was violating not only this basic moral concept, she was breaking the law. The secretary should be investigated right along with those officers who are out there engaged in this ungodly conduct. She should be investigated. And in my opinion, based upon my observation, secretary should not only be investigated, the secretary should be prosecuted right along with those officers.

This man did not brandish. This man was not armed. This man did not attempt to hurt those officers. They should all be prosecuted and you, persons associated with the Trump --

ANDREW GARBARINO:

Gentleman's time has expired.

AL GREEN:

-- lock her up. I say lock her up.

ANDREW GARBARINO:

Gentleman's time has expired. I now recognize the ranking member for UCs.

BENNIE THOMPSON:

That's correct, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to insert two statements for the record, one submitted by the Refugee Council USA, and the other from the Baptist Joint Committee on Religious Liberty.

ANDREW GARBARINO:

Without objection.

BENNIE THOMPSON:

Mr. Chairman, on behalf of Ms. Ramirez, I ask unanimous consent to include in the record three articles. One, a Chicago Sun-Times article describing how US Border Patrol has separated a family. Number two, ABC7 Chicago article that describes how ICE's warrantless arrests in Chicago has been ruled unlawful by a federal judge.

And third, a ProPublica article documenting how immigration agents are use -- are using banned chokeholds and other moves that cannot -- can cut off breathing.

ANDREW GARBARINO:

Without objection.

BENNIE THOMPSON:

Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to insert in the record the following articles, a CBS News article that states that contrary to the administration's claim, only 14 percent of those arrested by ICE had violent criminal records. An NPR story about a DHS memo that says

ICE can enter people's homes without a judicial warrant, which has alarmed members on both sides of the aisle.

An article from the Marshall Project that alleges that there are thousands of kids in detention, many for longer than the court prescribed limit. An article from The Independent about a sick five-year-old Liam [ph] Ramos asking for his mom in a detention center which rebuts testimony we heard today that ICE was taking good care of him.

A report from the Center for Election Innovation & Research updated this month that found that noncitizen voting is rare and allegations of the practice are a result of misunderstandings or fabrication. An article from the AP which highlights that federal authorities are monitoring and tracking individuals who criticize immigration enforcement operation.

A report from the Brennan Center Incentive title: ICE wants to go after the centers as well as immigrants. A report from The Guardian that describes the terrible condition in ICE facilities and that ICE denied urgent medical care to a ten year old.

ANDREW GARBARINO:

Without objection. I want to thank --

BENNIE THOMPSON:

I yield back.

ANDREW GARBARINO:

The gentleman yields back. I want to thank the members or the witnesses for being here today and all the members for their

questions. Members of the committee may have some additional questions for the witnesses and we ask that the witnesses to respond to these in writing pursuant to Committee Rule 7(e) the hearing record will be held open for 10 days.

I want to let the audience know that please still be seated while the witnesses and their teams, uh, leave. Without objection, this committee stands adjourned.

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