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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Committee on House Administration
Ranking Member

Committee on Appropriations
Vice Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science, and Related Agencies
Subcommittee on Defense

January 8, 2026

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

Dear Secretary Noem,

I write to you today to express my deep concern with the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) rapid expansion of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) operations, reckless disregard for public safety, and your deployment of agents in Minneapolis, the results of which culminated in the death of Renee Nicole Good. Your department must immediately take responsibility for this tragedy and work to restore the trust of the American people.

This killing did not occur in isolation. It follows other large-scale deployments in cities across the country. The speed, scale, and tone of these operations are deeply troubling. Time and time again, DHS has surged hundreds of agents into civilian neighborhoods with little transparency, limited coordination with local officials, and insufficient explanation to the public. These deployments appear designed to project force and intimidate rather than ensure community safety. The result has been fear, confusion, and, in Minneapolis, the unnecessary loss of life.

Equally concerning are reports detailing how ICE recruits and trains its officers. According to your department's own statements, ICE has added nearly 10,000 new agents in an extraordinarily compressed timeframe. To meet this goal, ICE has reportedly removed requirements, cut training time in half, and relied on large signing bonuses and aggressive marketing campaigns¹. History has shown that such shortcuts lead to misconduct, excessive use of force, and corruption.


As Vice Ranking Member of the Appropriations Committee, I take seriously Congress's responsibility to ensure that taxpayer dollars are not used to fund reckless practices or unchecked abuses of power. Funding carries with it a duty to protect the public, uphold the Constitution, and preserve human life. When those obligations are not met, Congress must act. Please provide my office with a detailed description of how ICE is currently recruiting, vetting, hiring, and training new agents, including any changes to background investigations, training, and instruction on use of force and de-escalation.

¹ <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/as-ice-boosts-recruitment-critics-concerned-over-changes-to-hiring-and-training-standards>

The killing of Renee Nicole Good is a heartbreaking tragedy that demands more than statements of regret. It demands answers, accountability, and immediate corrective action. DHS must slow down, reassess its approach, and ensure that no other family endures a loss like this.

I look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,


Joseph D. Morelle
Member of Congress