



COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

Ranking Member Bennie G. Thompson

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hearing Statement of Ranking Member Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS)

Oversight of the Department of Homeland Security: CISA, TSA, S&T **January 21, 2026**

Congressional Republicans' oversight of the Trump administration has been dismal this Congress. Republicans have had administration witnesses before the Committee the fewest times in any recent administration's first year. Most of that was on the watch of the prior Chairman, who was – to use a favorite phrase of his – derelict in his duty to bring Trump administration officials before the Committee.

This hearing is a step in the right direction. The Trump administration has created serious issues at TSA, CISA, and DHS S&T that need to be addressed. Committee Democrats are committed to taking a hard look at those issues – from President Trump slashing the CISA workforce, to Secretary Kristi Noem unlawfully rescinding union rights for frontline Transportation Security Officers, to the administration cutting programs that leverage university-based research to address critical homeland security challenges. But none of those things can be the sole focus of our oversight right now, because President Trump and Secretary Noem have weaponized DHS against the American people and are wreaking havoc in Minneapolis and other communities across this country.

It's an absolute disgrace that ICE isn't here today, in the wake of the shooting death of Renee Good at the hands of an ICE agent. As you know, I asked for ICE Acting Director Lyons to appear at today's hearing. I want to thank you for issuing that invitation, but Committee Democrats and I are outraged that ICE refused to appear today.

Ms. Good was a wife, mother of three young children, a devout Christian, and a U.S. citizen. We've all seen the shooting video with our own eyes. Ms. Good certainly did not deserve to be killed by her own government. She should be alive today. In the wake of Ms. Good's killing, ICE has an obligation to appear and answer Members' questions. Her tragic killing needs to be thoroughly investigated and everyone involved – from the ICE officer who pulled the trigger to the President and Secretary who sent him to Minneapolis – must be held accountable.

DHS also needs to be held accountable for its out-of-control immigration operations creating chaos in communities like Los Angeles, Chicago, New Orleans, and Minneapolis, terrorizing people from all walks of life, and hurting U.S. citizens and immigrants alike. In order to ensure that ICE appears before the Committee, pursuant to clause 2(J)(1) of House Rule XI, I am providing you with a letter signed by every Democratic Member of the Committee requesting testimony from Acting Director Lyons.

I understand that you intend to hold a series of oversight hearings with DHS officials. I look forward to ICE being before the Committee at our next hearing. Democrats insist on that. Never has oversight and accountability been more necessary than it is now. President Trump and Secretary Noem are doing real damage to this country and to the Department that was stood up in the wake of 9/11 to protect Americans

from future attacks. Unfortunately, President Trump and Secretary Noem have established a corrupt, “above the law” culture at DHS, and Noem has enriched herself and her allies at tax-payer expense.

She has awarded multiple, no-bid contracts to close associates and siphoned \$240 million of taxpayer money to companies connected to her top advisor and close confidant, Corey Lewandowski, as well as to her spokesperson’s husband. She fast-tracked a contract worth almost \$1 billion dollars to a company led by a Trump donor. And she is living, rent-free, in U.S. Coast Guard housing designated for military members.

She has also abused her power as Secretary. She has acknowledged cherry-picking which court orders the Department will comply with, contrary to the rule of law. She has used access to disaster funds to punish political foes, illegally withholding congressionally authorized disaster funds. She has obstructed Congressional oversight, barring Members from visiting ICE detention facilities and refusing to respond to oversight letters and requests.

In short, she has enriched herself, abused the power of her office, obstructed Congressional oversight, and violated her oath of office to the Constitution. Never has oversight of the Department of Homeland Security been more important and never has holding an administration accountable been more necessary.

Be assured that accountability is coming.

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[Media contact](#)