



**One Hundred Nineteenth Congress
Committee on Homeland Security
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515**

January 26, 2026

The Honorable Andrew R. Garbarino
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Garbarino:

I write with urgency to demand the immediate scheduling of a Committee on Homeland Security (CHS) hearing on U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) pursuant to the January 21, 2026, minority-day request under clause 2(j)(1) of House rule XI made by every Democrat on the Committee.¹

The shooting deaths of Renee Nicole Macklin Good and Alex Pretti at the hands of Federal immigration officials, as well as documented cases of inhumane tactics, such as using a 5-year-old as “bait” in the apprehension of asylum-seekers lawfully in the United States,² demand that our Committee exercise its constitutional responsibility to hold the executive branch to account as soon as possible.

I have tried to work with you in good faith to schedule the appearance of the Senior Official Performing the Duties of the Director of ICE, Todd M. Lyons. On January 14, I sent you a letter saying that ICE’s shootings, brutal enforcement tactics, and inhumane detention conditions cried out for oversight.³

Evidently, you agreed with me, and on January 15, your staff invited Mr. Lyons along with the heads of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to a hearing on border security and immigration.⁴ And on January 17, you issued

¹ Letter from Rep. Bennie G. Thompson, Ranking Minority Member, H. Comm. on Homeland Sec., et al., to Rep. Andrew R. Garbarino, Chairman, H. Comm. on Homeland Sec. (Jan. 21, 2026).

² Priscilla Alvarez et al., *5-year-old boy taken by ICE in Minneapolis area being held with father at Texas facility*, CNN (Jan. 23, 2026), <https://www.cnn.com/2026/01/22/us/minnesota-liam-conejo-ramos-ice-detained>.

³ Letter from Rep. Bennie G. Thompson, Ranking Minority Member, H. Comm. on Homeland Sec., to Rep. Andrew R. Garbarino, Chairman, H. Comm. on Homeland Sec. (Jan. 14, 2026).

⁴ Press Release, H. Comm. on Homeland Sec. (Majority), Chairman Garbarino Requests ICE, CBP, USCIS Testimony for Upcoming Oversight Hearing (Jan. 24, 2026), <https://homeland.house.gov/2026/01/24/chairman-garbarino-requests-ice-cbp-uscis-testimony-for-upcoming-oversight-hearing/>.

a formal invitation to Mr. Lyons to appear at a January 21st CHS hearing.⁵ Mr. Lyons, however, declined your invitation.

During the January 21st hearing, every CHS Democrat signed the letter invoking clause 2(j)(1) of rule XI of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives and request a hearing with minority-called witnesses, including Mr. Lyons.⁶

On January 24, you formally memorialized your January 15th request for the full committee testimony of ICE Acting Director Lyons, CBP Commissioner Scott, and USCIS Director Edlow.⁷ But in your letter, you offered each potential witness a menu of potential hearing dates, including more than seven weeks from now.⁸ Such a timeline does not provide the American people or their representatives with timely information about Federal immigration officials' actions in Minneapolis and around the country.

In addition to the tragic shootings of Ms. Good and Mr. Pretti, there have been 10 additional shootings by DHS during immigration raids since September.⁹ And one journalist has “tracked at least 2,300 cases in which [F]ederal judges have ruled ICE has illegally detained people without bond or due process” since July 2025.¹⁰ Members of a co-equal branch of government in a constitutional republic cannot abide such lawlessness from the executive branch for one day let alone seven weeks.

CHS must hear from these DHS immigration officials immediately, and if they do not come voluntarily, they must be subpoenaed.

Further, your January 24th request does not relieve you of your responsibility under House Rules to hold a hearing—which must be held “under a reasonable schedule”¹¹—with witnesses chosen by the minority pursuant to our January 21st minority-day request. If that hearing is not scheduled immediately, I will seek to enforce the request on the House floor.

Mr. Chairman, you did not create the horrific situation in Minneapolis, but your votes to fund DHS without meaningful restrictions and give ICE near limitless resources to exact violence on the American people—at the expense of everyday Americans' healthcare—through last year's Big Ugly Bill abets this evil. And every day the Committee fails to exercise oversight of those who are

⁵ Letter from Rep. Andrew R. Garbarino, Chairman, H. Comm. on Homeland Sec., to Mr. Todd M. Lyons, Senior Off. Performing the Duties of the Dir., U.S. Immigr. and Customs Enf't, Dep't. of Homeland Sec. (Jan. 17, 2026) (on file with author).

⁶ *Supra* note 1.

⁷ *Supra* note 4.

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ Jon Schuppe & Erik Ortiz, *Trump's DHS has shot 12 people during immigration enforcement operations since September: Here's what to know*, NBC NEWS (Jan. 25, 2026), <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/ice-shootings-list-border-patrol-trump-immigration-operations-rcna254202>.

¹⁰ Kyle Cheney (@kyledcheney), X (Jan. 24, 2026, at 9:36 p.m. ET), <https://x.com/kyledcheney/status/2015252291066921388>.

¹¹ John V. Sullivan, Thomas J. Wickham, Jr. & Jason A. Smith, House Practice: A Guide to the Rules, Precedents, and Procedures of the House 291 (2024).

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perpetrating this madness enables it further. We must do our jobs now. We cannot wait weeks. Our country is in peril. American lives are at risk.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bennie G. Thompson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Bennie" being more prominent.

Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress
Ranking Member, Committee on Homeland Security