



# COMMITTEE *ON* HOMELAND SECURITY

*Ranking Member Bennie G. Thompson*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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

### ***Highway Safety Under Threat: Examining Non-Domiciled CDL Issuance to Illegal Aliens***

**March 4, 2026**

I find it disappointing that my Republican colleagues have called this hearing to discuss a topic solely in another Committee's jurisdiction when we could be discussing how Kristi and Corey have weaponized the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) against the American people.

My colleagues must know that no State is legally allowed to issue non-domiciled commercial driver's licenses (CDLs) to undocumented migrants. Only lawful immigrants, proficient in English, can obtain commercial driver's licenses. This has been Federal law long before Trump stepped foot in the White House the first time. And despite the racist and nativist tropes blaming non-domiciled commercial drivers for truck crashes, the truth is they are underrepresented in fatal collisions, accounting for less than 1 percent.

If Republicans really cared about highway safety, they would consider recommendations grounded in crash data studies such as requiring side guards for 18-wheelers and automatic braking systems. The Department of Transportation's (DOT) new rule depriving asylum seekers and refugees of commercial licenses is nothing more than another cruel and spiteful plan, driven by white nationalism, to hurt immigrants trying to make a better life for themselves. But no mistake, it will also hurt all Americans.

Depriving immigrants of CDLs will disrupt the U.S. economy. DOT's rule would force 200,000 commercial drivers off the road, straining supply chains and causing lengthy delays in delivering food and goods. These drivers are the same ones who provide essential public services, including driving our children to school, operating snowplows during chilling blizzards, and running the mass transit system. Removing experienced truckers from the road makes our roads less safe, not more safe.

This hearing is a distraction from the chaos and corruption occurring at DHS daily. This Subcommittee should be conducting oversight of DHS's occupation of American cities that resulted in the murder of U.S. citizens by masked law enforcement and the arrest of protesters exercising their First Amendment right. The crackdown in Minneapolis was so egregious that it was a relief to see Tom Homan — the father of family separation — replace "Commander at Large" and Nazi fashion aficionado Greg Bovino.

That's the same Tom "Bags of Cash" Homan who has lots of company, just not good company, when it comes to grifting off DHS. Contracts worth millions for planes, cars, and media campaigns have all been awarded to Trump megadonors or those with ties to senior DHS officials. What isn't being spent is billions in disaster aid the Trump administration is unlawfully withholding from State and local governments.

Although our communities are being denied flood assistance, they are being flooded with 10,000 unqualified immigration officers hired by DHS and pushed into the field without adequate training. But you won't find a job at the Department's cybersecurity agency even though it lost one-third of its total

workforce since Trump took over, significantly weakening its ability to defend critical infrastructure from cyber attacks while we are at war with Iran.

There is so much chaos and corruption within DHS that there is no need for Republicans to conduct oversight of topics outside this Committee's jurisdiction.

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